

The Whole Truth

The Official Magazine of the Church Of God In Christ

Louise Patterson:
COGIC'S First Lady

Bishop C. E. Blake:
First Assistant Presiding Bishop

Leadership Conference 2001

**How Will The Bush Administration Effect
The Church?**

April - May - June 2001

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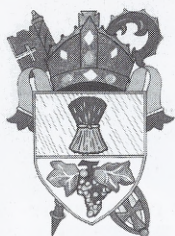
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Cover: Hugh A. Terry & Nikki-Kenyatta Lewis

From the Office of the Presiding Bishop



Dear Whole Truth Reader:

Grace and peace be unto you through our Lord Jesus Christ!

The Church of God in Christ has faced and conquered many challenges throughout her 104 year history. We have a rich history with a precious heritage secured through the sacrifices of innumerable dedicated leaders and extraordinary saints. Building on the foundation laid by these pioneers, we now have the opportunity to take our church into uncharted territories through the technology of the 21st century. With computers, the internet, satellites, and transcontinental travel, our world has been reduced to one large community.

While focusing on our goals of global evangelism and innovative ministry, it is imperative that we not remove our fingers from the pulse of the local church and local pastor. With this in mind, I have launched two initiatives for which I am anticipating unprecedented support. The first plan is to use a percentage of the national credentials income to begin a special retirement fund for retired pastors and credential carriers. Therefore, to echo the announcement I made during the Orlando Leadership Conference: I am asking all jurisdictional leaders to diligently promote this year's credential holders' reports which are to be submitted in April. By getting maximum participation in this effort, we can get this program under-way very soon.

The second plan is to receive the annual contribution of \$12.00 per member during the National Convocation in November, instead of at the April Assembly. With strong support of this effort, a percentage of this income will be used to underwrite a church extension fund to provide assistance to local pastors and assemblies. All persons who submit this \$12.00 contribution will receive their official COGIC membership card. We are currently working on a benefit package that will provide special discounts for travel and other significant services for those who carry the COGIC card.

There are a number of other program projections that I have announced to which this edition of The Whole Truth refers. Included are nationwide Church Of God In Christ telecasts and radio broadcasts; a 24 hour intercessory prayer team; a soul winning campaign; and a School of Ministry that will offer ministerial and biblical training for our constituency.

Let's continue our great legacy of conquering our many challenges by uniting through love, prayer and unparalleled support of our church's ministries.

"The blessings of the Lord be upon you; we bless you in the name of the Lord."

Yours in Prayer,

G. E. Patterson



LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2001: A Pursuit of Excellence

"One of the greatest Leadership Conferences I've ever attended." "I'm ready to go home and incorporate what I've learned in my local church." "Outstanding meeting. I feel energized!" Over and over, statements, such as those from pastors, supervisors, and national auxiliary leaders, inspired the newly elected Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ at the end of his first Annual Leadership Conference.

It began on at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Church of God in Christ leaders from across the country prepared for a week of interaction, inspiration, and instruction. During the conference, Bishop Patterson rolled out his strategic vision for the Church Of God In Christ's expansion and growth.

"One of the first things I found (after taking office) was that the processes had already begun for the leadership conference to be held in Orlando," said Bishop Patterson. As a result, he asked First Assistant Bishop C. E. Blake to serve as Conference Chairman and Dr. Jerry Maynard, as the Conference Coordinator. Other key participants were Dr. Charles Brown, Program Coordinator; Bishop Adrian Williams, Director of Public Relations; Pastors Bobby Henderson and W. Jeffrey Toles, staff members.

Bishop Patterson's presence at the early morning prayer with Evangelist Frances Kelley and others, showed that every segment and every activity of the conference counted. After prayer, conferees heard early morning speakers. After receiving assistance to the platform, the venerable Madam Bibby brought laughter to the gathering by wondering aloud "If today is old folks' day" since her childhood friend, Bishop Leroy Anderson, introduced her. Following Mother Bibby's message, new General Board member, Bishop George McKinney, summarized the purpose of the conference. Another morning speaker, Supt. Earnest Dyson, spoke on "Spiritual Authority" and referenced the fact that individuals are being born into the body of Christ who do not yet understand the importance of service.

The 2001 Leadership Conference, operating under the banner "Pursuing Excellence in Leadership," was a tremendous learning venue for COGIC leaders. Every level of church government was addressed. In sessions facilitated by Bishop G.E. Patterson, Bishop C.E. Blake and Chairman-Bishop L.T. Walker, "train the trainer" modalities were used to convey that change, begun in management, will trickle down through the operational arm of the church. Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., and his staff employed historical reference, levity, role playing and teaching on proper parliamentary procedures to emphasize the importance of proper General Assembly decorum. Newly elected Pastors and Elders' Council President, Elder Derrick Hutchins, presented a succinct overview of his plan to further move his department forward and said that his policy was one of "welcome and inclusion." Also, Dr. R.L. Asberry presented a session on Ministerial Ethics. Dr. Asberry gave the pastors pause regarding the gravity of decisions made by those in authority. Major Gregory Cruell stressed the "21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership." Dr. David Hall developed and presented a fastidious workshop on the relationship of the executive branch and judiciary board of the Church.

Many new faces were added to the staff of seasoned trainers, including Elder Gerald Feltus who did a tremendous job in presenting "Leadership Principles and Practices." Ms. Sandra Smith Harris facilitated the "Pastors' Wives and Other Delegates" session. In the Bishops' Wives session, Mother Mae C. Winbush admonished the "Help Meets to the Bishop" to understand their unique roles in the body of Christ. The 100 or more supervisors in the Department of Women's session were led by Mother Willie Mae Rivers, assisted by Mother Barbara McCoo Lewis, Mother Gertrude Young, and Supervisor Olive Brown. They instructed the women on the Role of the Supervisor, The Constitutional Authority of the Supervisor, and Financial Accountability.

Superb luncheon and dinner fare delighted most. Luncheon speakers were Second Assistant Bishop J. Neaul Haynes, who set the tone with a message on "The Pursuit of Excellence"; and First Assistant Bishop C.E. Blake, who inspired the conferees with his message, "The Entangled Warrior." The attending leaders sat riveted as they listened to the voice of Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, whose message "The Anointed," challenged them. He admonished adherents to live the life about which they preach and teach. Lingering questions regarding the rapport between Bishop Patterson and outgoing Presiding Bishop Chandler Owens were laid to rest as Bishop Owens embraced his longtime friend at the conclusion of his (Patterson's) message.

New Initiatives

The Presiding Bishop unveiled a plan to spur growth in COGIC assemblies across the country. He appointed



Bishop Patterson and Bishop Owens embrace

Pastor Bob Jackson of Oakland, California, as Director of a National Soul Winner's Program. Jackson will mobilize a team to travel across the country teaching COGIC adherents seven steps for soul winning. The implementation of these methods has caused Jackson's local church to mushroom from 13 members, just sixteen years ago, to over five thousand today.

Dr. Alonzo Johnson briefly presented the Presiding Bishop's vision to create an accredited school of ministry to be located in Memphis. However, the program will offer distance education thru on-line services. Dr. Johnson, a tenured professor at the University of South Carolina, outlined a two-year degree program with transferable credits to any liberal arts undergraduate university.

Among key appointments: Evangelist Maria Gardner was named International Elect Lady of the Evangelism Department; Professor Iris Stevenson was appointed as International President of the Music Department. Other appointments included Supt. J. Drew Sheard as Vice President to AIM leader, Bishop Jerry Macklin; and Evangelist LuVonia Whittle as AIM Secretary. Additionally, plans for increased focus on the International Missions Department are underway. He charged Missionary Frances Kelley with the task of coordinating an around-the-clock intercessory prayer team. Dot Hughley, a certified convention planner, was appointed as the official Director of COGIC Convention Services. Ms. Hughley and her staff will be handling housing and concessions for all COGIC conferences and conventions other than the Women's Convention. The Memphis Convention Bureau and Hotel Managers Association have already applauded the selection of Ms. Hughley. God has blessed the Church of God in Christ with a leader attuned to the needs for the times. Bishop Patterson stated that all who believe in the doctrine of Jesus Christ,

the message of Pentecost, and holy living are as welcome today as they were in the days of Bishop C.H. Mason.

However, "our church teaches holy living and should be

on the vanguard of where Christ initially placed us." To that end, look for the Church of God in Christ's national television broadcast in Fall 2001 which will provide the opportunity for anointed and gifted men and women to share the message of Christ from the COGIC perspective. As the vision of Bishop Patterson continues to unfold, others will see the good works and, as those in Orlando did, glorify our Father in heaven.

---Glenda Goodson

THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

*We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible Word of God.

*We believe that there is One God, eternally existent in Three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

*We believe in the Blessed Hope, which is the rapture of the Church of God, which is in Christ at His return.

*We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin, is through repentance, faith in the precious blood of Jesus Christ and accepting the gospel according to Romans 10:9-10.

*We believe that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing for the human body in answer to believing prayer.

*We believe that the baptism in the Holy Ghost, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it.

*We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling, the Christian is enabled to live a holy and separated life in this present world.

Amen.



BISHOP CHARLES BLAKE: *First Assistant Presiding Bishop*



The inimitable Bishop Charles E. Blake offered a sobering challenge to the leaders gathered in Orlando, Florida, at the recent COGIC Leadership Conference. For his keynote address on the third day of the Conference, he used the subject, "The Entangled Warrior." He discussed how imperative it is that those in leadership not become entangled with the affairs of this life so that they can please the one who has chosen them. He used II Timothy chapter 2 as his biblical text.

During his presentation, the First Assistant Presiding Bishop asserted that he was comfortable in the role he had accepted to assist the newly elected COGIC leader. Since God made choice of Bishop Patterson as Presiding Bishop, Blake suggested that "God obviously intended for the rest of us to do something else...." Those who know the exposure of Bishop Blake's ministry recognize that, like Bishop Patterson, the scope of his local ministry is so great that serving in his current national capacity is a labor of love and enormous sacrifice.

As the pastor of West Angeles COGIC in Los Angeles, Bishop Blake serves the largest African American church in the western United States. It is well chronicled that he has spearheaded a program of ministry and community service that has led West Angeles to grow from approximately 50 members in 1969 to over 18,000 today. Recently, he appeared on Robert Shuler's internationally acclaimed 'Hour of Power' telecast and shared how the impact of Shuler's accomplishments caused him to begin to believe for ministry growth without limits. During a church growth conference at the Crystal Cathedral (Shuler's church) 30 years ago, Blake was the only African American pastor in attendance.

Now Blake inspires thousands with his expertise on church growth and ministry development. As well, he

is viewed by millions on his weekly telecast on Trinity Broadcast Network each Sunday (viewed at 1:00 p.m. eastern time).

West Angeles employs over 200 daily staff members and has a volunteer force of more than 1000 people who serve the congregation and community through more than 80 specialized programs and support groups. Within the next few weeks, West Angeles' 60 million dollar Cathedral will be dedicated. This is one

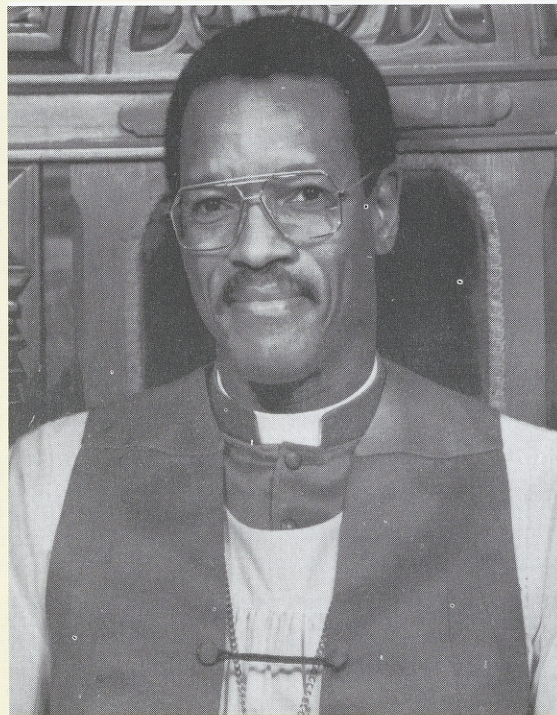
of the most ambitious church building projects in the history of the Christian church in America. (See the next edition of *The Whole Truth* for a complete report on the grand opening of West Angeles Cathedral.)

Bishop Blake has served as the prelate of the First Jurisdiction of Southern California for the last sixteen years. His jurisdiction owns and maintains the Bonnie Brae House where the Azusa Street Revival began. Southern California First has approximately 240 churches.

Licensed to preach in 1959 and ordained in 1962, Bishop Blake has earned three degrees including a doctorate from the California Graduate School of Theology in 1982.

This sixty year old gospel dynamo is married to Mae Lawrence Blake with whom he has three offspring - all of whom are adults now.

On November 14, 2000, Presiding Bishop G. E. Patterson nominated Bishop Blake to assist him as the First Assistant Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ. The nomination was ratified overwhelmingly (almost unanimously) by the over 5,000 delegates at the General Assembly of COGIC which convened in Memphis, Tennessee.

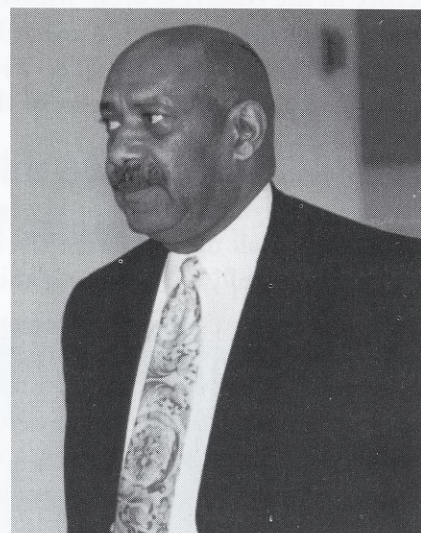


BISHOP CHARLES E. BLAKE
Excellence in Leadership Personified

DR. JERRY MAYNARD: Profile of the New Chief of Staff

by Pat Everage

Presiding Bishop G. E. Patterson has appointed Dr. Jerry L. Maynard as his Chief of Staff for the new COGIC administration. Maynard is pastor of Pentecostal Tabernacle Church in Nashville, TN and the Superintendent of the Nashville District. He also serves as the Administrative Assistant to Presiding Bishop G. E. Patterson for the Fourth Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Tennessee. On February 17, 2001, Dr. Maynard was selected unanimously as the "Bishop Designate" to succeed Bishop G. E. Patterson as the leader of Tennessee's Fourth Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ.



DR. JERRY MAYNARD
Chief of Staff

Dr. Maynard has established and strengthened churches throughout the Church of God in Christ for the past forty years. As Chief of Staff, he will apply his skills and experience for the benefit of the national organization by coordinating all appointed positions representing the Presiding Bishop. He will work with the treasurer and financial secretary to help generate, monitor and invest funds for the Church of God in Christ.

In 1981, God inspired Pastor Maynard to adopt the theme "Maximize Your Potential." "Ephesians 3:20 reveals that God, working in us, will do more for us than we could ever imagine. His power is limitless...His spirit, in us, works without limits and there is no lack in God," says Dr. Maynard. He continues, "If there is lack in your life, then you have not maximized the potential which is available through Christ Jesus. Operating in the will of God ensures personal success; there is no way to fail or be without peace if you are acting in his will." This message of spiritual growth permeates all of his teachings and actions. Two years ago, when faced with an overflowed sanctuary, during 3 of 4 worship services on Sundays, Dr. Maynard's conviction of carrying out God's vision for the body of Christ led to the building of another sanctuary that could accommodate the congregants. The new building includes a sanctuary which seats between 1,800 - 2,000, a multi-purpose music and choir rehearsal room, 13 classrooms and an executive office suite.

In 1997, when planning for the construction of the new facility, Maynard chose Church Builders United, a partnership of minority-owned contractors. In addition, minority and/or women-owned businesses worked as subcontractors on the project. He insisted that the labor force be made up of a significant number of minorities. Thus, approximately eighty-percent of the laborers working on the construction of the facility were African-American or Hispanic. Other area churches building new facilities are now patterning after this model.

Dr. Maynard's concern for the growth and edification of God's people extends beyond the church. He served as the Director of the Muncie, Indiana Human Rights Commission from 1967-1970, a member of the Indiana and United States Civil Rights Commission from 1970-1981 and the President's Domestic Policy Committee from 1977-1983. He has received numerous awards and honors for his service to the community and the nation, including the highest civilian award given by the state of Indiana, the "Sagamore of the Wabash". In 1999, Dr. Maynard received the "Dr. R. H. Boyd Business Advocate of the Year" award for his dedication to the support of minority entrepreneurship.

Dr. Maynard, a pioneer in ministry, utilizes new technology and the media to reach the masses. The Pentecostal Tabernacle's daily radio broadcasts, weekly telecast on Cable/TV, and website are ways in which he delivers his messages of "Maximizing Your Potential." In 1999, along with his son, Attorney Jerry Maynard, he began a sixty-minute Christian commentary radio show. "In Perspective" is dedicated to addressing, from a biblical perspective, the issues, policies and practices that affect all our lives.

As a man of vision, Maynard creates opportunities for the people of God to come together in study of the Word, praise, and worship. Recently, the Pentecostal Tabernacle Church family held a City-Wide Revival of unparalleled

significance in the Nashville area. Messages of spiritual growth, economic security, and unity throughout the body of Christ were presented by Dr. Maynard and guest, Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III, pastor of Mount Zion (Full Gospel) Baptist Church in Nashville. These inspiring messages were heard by over 4,000 people. Approximately 15 pastors were present in a support of the vision; 24 churches were represented.

Dr. Maynard is married to Dr. Mary T. Maynard, the Deputy Superintendent for Dekalb County Schools in Georgia. Mary Maynard was born in Ideal, Georgia, and was raised in a family with strong Christian values. Her parents instilled in all their children the importance of believing in self. They taught their 12 offspring that there was nothing they could not achieve if they set their minds to it and placed their lives in Jesus' hands.

Drs. Jerry L. and Mary T. Maynard are recognized and set in esteem for their philanthropic efforts. Together they have assisted in numerous entrepreneurial efforts in Tennessee and Georgia. They have made numerous investments in businesses, including restaurants, beauty salons, retail stores, a limousine company, a car dealership, a car detailing shop, a construction company, a landscaping firm and a bookstore. They also contribute financially to the establishment of other churches and ministries on a regular basis.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL SPRING CALL MEETING

April 16 - 19, 2001

Memphis, Tennessee

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONVENTION

May 7 - 11, 2001

Birmingham, Alabama

AIM

(Auxiliaries In Ministry)

July 2 - 7, 2001

St. Louis, Missouri

Unprecedented Trip by Supervisor Willie Mae Rivers and Delegation Wins the Hearts of Islanders

By Cynthia Brown and Pearl Williams

In an unprecedented accomplishment, Mother Willie Mae Rivers and a delegation of thirty-five representatives from various parts of the United States traveled several thousand miles on a mission trip to Okinawa, Japan. Presiding Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson sanctioned this venture and conferred his blessings upon this historical trip. The journey marks the unfolding of the collaborative vision of expanded thrust in The Church of God in Christ's mission effort as articulated by Bishop Patterson and General Supervisor Rivers.



Japan entourage with Mother Rivers (center in black hat) during this historic trip.

On Monday, January 29, 2001, the delegation met in Los Angeles, California. After a briefing concerning travel, cultural customs, itinerary and a restful night's sleep, the group boarded a Japan Airlines jet. The flight lasted more than ten hours across the International Date Line to Tokyo, Japan and another hour and forty-five minutes on to Okinawa (a total of 13,000 miles). "It was really a blessing to be able to put our feet on the ground," says Mother Rivers with a laugh. "Supervisor Elect Barnes and a host of pastors joined the women to welcome the group. The hospitality was just amazing and we were so blessed to meet many of the ministers who serve as chaplains in the military." According to Mother Lucille Spann, International Hospitality President, the red carpet treatment the delegation received from the welcoming committee of saints in Japan was to be highly commended. "The hospitality was superior," she said.

The original purpose of the trip was for the official installation of Mother Sharon Barnes as Supervisor to the Department of Women for the Japan Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, where pioneer trailblazer, Bishop Archie Buchanan, is prelate. It was changed to include a mission trip.

"The mission trip provided this small jurisdiction with encouragement...pertinent to the pursuit of excellence in the way of holiness," said Mother Rivers.

At noon Thursday, the introductory session began. Mother Olive Brown introduced the Executive Staff of the Department of Women and other delegates. Mother Carolyn Galbraith and designated staff members gave a brief overview of the Women's International Convention. In the relaxed setting, "The ladies asked many questions," says Mother Rivers, "and the saints expressed their deep appreciation for the opportunity to interact with and receive information from the General Supervisor." For many, this was the first opportunity experience an international visit. Witnessing Mother Rivers personally share words of wisdom in such a setting indelibly etched her love into the hearts of the Okinawa saints. Mother Rivers stated, "They were excited and very open...the seriousness in their wanting to learn and grow was evident on their faces."

National Prayer Leader, Evangelist Frances Kelley, opened the Friday session with strong emphasis on the importance of cultivating a prayer life. The gifted and anointed ministry of Evangelist Bettye Nelson, International Music Department Vice President, ushered in a sweet atmosphere of praise and worship. Evangelist Joyce Hamilton presented the workshop objectives before Moderator, Supervisor Elizabeth Crooms, conducted the informative session. Presenters from the delegation exercised their gifts in developing the theme: "Pursuing Excellence, God's Plan for the Christian Woman" (St. Luke 10:38-42). The presenters included Assistant Supervisor Annie Moody, Supervisors Joann Hill, Artaska King, Geraldine

Miller, Edith McGrew, Merle Cranford, Stella Watson, Mary Jane Watson, and Mother Mildred Eason. The audience was electrified as each speaker proclaimed the gospel. Mother Rivers eloquently climaxed this session with encouraging remarks.

The Installation Service was held Friday evening at Calvary Church of God in Christ where Bishop Buchanan serves as pastor. The Dr. Juliet White presided as the audience heard from participants from the Japan Jurisdiction and the Department of Women's executives who shared during Supervisor Barnes' important milestone. In her official message, Mother Rivers stated, "As holy women we have a job to do, including the work of the evangelist." Taking for her reference John 4 and II Timothy 4:5, she challenged, and charged Supervisor Barnes to uphold and defend the word of God and to make full proof of her calling in this new and vital ministry.

On Saturday, an ecumenical group gathered at the Kadena Military Base Officer's Club to wish Supervisor Barnes well. In her message, 'An Exalted Servant', the General Supervisor said, "God exalts those who are submissive. I want to remind women everywhere that we are not big shots, but servants with a great responsibility." At the end of this service, Supervisor Barnes and her husband presented Mother Rivers with her own web site. On Sunday morning, Illinois First's Supervisor Charlotte Eades spoke under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Sunday evening, the Lord strengthened the General Supervisor to conclude the services. Before saying farewell, Mother Rivers anointed many of the women and children. Along with the entire delegation, her love moved her to plant a seed in each local church ministry. Mother Rivers' objectives to encourage, edify, and empower the saints of Okinawa were accomplished. (Missionary Diane Bogan of Flint, Michigan and Sister Angie Rivers of Goose Creek, South Carolina did an outstanding job making arrangements for the trip.)

To God be the glory for souls saved, bodies healed and the saints who were encouraged. "All glory and honor and praises all day belong to God!"

Along with Mother Rivers, the missions team included the following persons: Supervisors and Mothers - Artaska King, Milwaukee; Geraldine Miller, Memphis; Olive Brown, Newark; Mary Walton, Detroit; Elizabeth Crooms, Jacksonville, FL; Joann Hill, Miami; Edith McGrew,

Atlanta; Merle Cranford, Detroit; Stella Watson, Dallas; Charlotte Eades, Chicago; Lucille Spann, Randallstown, MD; Rose Wilson-Ritter, Memphis; Annie Moody, Aiken, SC; Carolyn Galbraith, North Highlands, CA; Annie Canty, Sumter, SC; Wilda Newton, Flint, MI; Mildred Eason, Orlando; National Leaders, Missionaries and Delegates - Evangelist Frances Kelley, Memphis; Dr. Juliet White, Long Island; Missionary Frances Miller-Harris, Richmond, CA; Evangelist Joy Hamilton, Seaside, CA; Evangelist Bettye Nelson, Houston; Missionary Irma Wesley, Ft. Lauderdale; Missionary Eula Gray, Dayton Beach; Evangelist Ruby Holland, Jackson, MS; Missionary Cynthia Brown, Belle Glade, FL; Sister Vernece Hutchins, Columbia, SC; Missionary Wilma Holloway, St.

Petersburg, FL; Missionary Pearl Williams, Ft. Lauderdale; Missionary Lolita Perkins, Flint, MI; Lawanda Hill, Miami; Sister Desiree Wright; Miami, Sister Marylyn Gillespie, Flint, MI.



MOTHER WILLIE M. RIVERS
General Supervisor of Women

A VIEW FROM THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN

Arlene Dixon of Japan says the Japan Jurisdiction and the larger community were especially blessed by JAPAN MISSION TRIP 2001. She shares the following perspective:

"We didn't know when Supervisor Sharon Barnes initiated the invitation, that this would become the most dynamic spiritual event to ever happen on the Island of Okinawa. It was a learning experience for Christians and the secular community and it gained island-wide recognition. Mother Rivers and Supervisor Barnes had only met face to face twice, but the unity was evident. It was God's will for this event to take place. History was truly in the making. This was the first time the community had ever been privileged to personally interact with an international official from our headquarters in the States. This was also the first time any of us had witnessed an official installation ceremony for a jurisdictional supervisor of women. The community took notice that there are saints (here)...we greeted representatives from the Naval Hospital, Island Military, chaplains, officers, NCO, Enlisted Clubs and other churches. A member said, 'No other denomination has ever brought such prestigious members... to this Island before.' None of us will ever be the same!"



The Congress of National Black Churches, Inc.'s Board of Directors Elects Bishop Cecil Bishop as New Board Chair

Kansas City, MO -- The Board of Directors of the Congress of National Black Churches, Inc. (CNBC) elected its new chairman, Bishop Cecil Bishop at its Black Church Leadership Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, December 5, 2000. Bishop Cecil Bishop served as Vice-Chairman at-Large of the Board under outgoing chair Dr. Wallace S. Hartsfield, Sr. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Bishop now resides in Charlotte, North Carolina. His term as chairman begins January 2001.

Bishop Cecil Bishop is the presiding prelate for the Tenth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. He received his Master of Divinity Degree from Howard University and his Doctor of Divinity Degree from Livingstone College. He served as Pastor at a number of churches including John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church in Washington, D.C. and Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church in Greensboro, N.C. before being appointed Bishop. He is a member of the Board of Trustees at Livingstone College, and Vice Chairman of the Hood Theological Seminary Board where he was previously the associate professor of practical theology.

Bishop will serve as Chairman for a term of three years. Other officers elected include: Dr. W.T. Snead Sr. (National Missionary Baptist Convention of America), Vice-Chair-at Large; Bishop John R. Bryant (African Methodist Episcopal Church), Vice-Chair; Bishop E. Lynn Brown (Christian Methodist Episcopal Church), Vice-Chair; Bishop E. Lynn Brown (Christian Methodist Episcopal Church), Secretary; Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush (Church of God in Christ), Treasurer; Edward Dixon, Esq (National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.), Parliamentarian; and Bishop Lawrence L. Reddick III (Christian Methodist Episcopal Church), Historian. General Vice Chairmen are Dr. E. Mackey Daniels (Progressive National Baptist Convention); Dr. William J. Shaw (National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.); and Rdd. E. Edward Jones (National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.).

The election of new officers was one of many items the Board addressed during its Black Church Leadership Conference, Executive Director Sullivan Robinson and conference co-chairs Bishop John Hurst Adams, CNBC founder and chairman emeritus, and Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, CNBC board member and pastor of Grace Baptist Church, led participants in discussions on how the Black Church could collaborate to close the health, education, technological, economic, and social justice divides within the black community. Speakers at the Black Church Leadership Conference included Ambassador Andrew Young; Black Enterprise CEO & publisher Earl Graves; Rev. Wyatt T. Walker; and Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health, David Satcher.

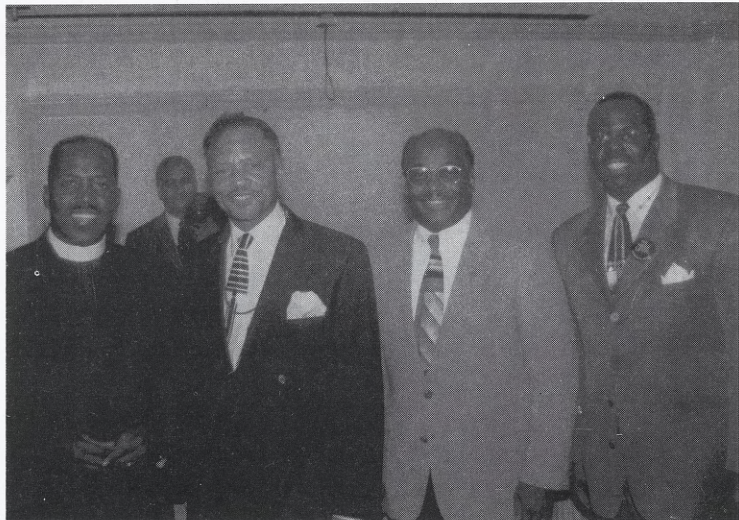
Founded in 1978 and based in Washington, D.C., CNBC is an ecumenical coalition of eight major historically African American denominations: African Methodist Episcopal; African Methodist Episcopal Zion; Christian Methodist Episcopal; Church of God in Christ; National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.; National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.; National Missionary Baptist Convention of America; and Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. Together, these denominations represent 65,000 member churches and a congregation membership of more than 20 million people. CNBC's mission is to foster Christian unity, charity, and fellowship and to collaborate in ministries that promote justice, wholeness, fulfillment, and affirm the moral and spiritual values of our faith.

Provided by the Public Relations Department of the CNBC

New Chairman of Pastors and Elders' Council Outlines Plan of Action

Pastor Derrick W. Hutchins, newly elected Chairman of General Council of Pastors and Elders for the Church of God in Christ, has wasted no time in developing an Eight Step Plan of Constructive Action "...that will prepare us to chart a new course for the Twenty-first Century." The General Council has as one of its prime objectives, to "...strengthen the General Council as an appellate court, safeguarding the rights of every pastor and elder within the Church of God in Christ and assuring them due process."

Hutchins says further, "The future of our denomination will be heavily influenced by how we respond to the growing needs of our Pastors and Elders. We must be effective in matching the competition in our ability to reach this upcoming generation."



**Superintendent Hutchins, Elder Grover, Elder Best and Elder Johnson:
Newly elected officers of the Pastors and Elder's Council.**

Pastors and Elders should plan now to attend the General Council's Conference 2001, August 29th through 31st, at the Marriott Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia. For more information, you may contact Superintendent Derrick W. Hutchins by written correspondence at:

5401 S. Kirkman Road, Suite 490

Orlando, FL, 32819

or you may call: 407.226.3505 or fax 407.226.3504.

THE EIGHT STEP PLAN INCLUDES:

- Development of a nation-wide communication network, including a quarterly newsletter and web site;
- Organization of a major recruitment drive;
- Establishment of a national hotline providing legal advice, personal counseling, and ministry assistance;
- Specialized training through seminars;
- Formation of a review board;
- Strengthening the relationship of all council members;
- Reorganizing and restructuring operations worldwide; and
- Clearly defined budgetary goals and financial accountability

A Message From The Department Of Public Relations

Greetings:

God has given, through the leadership of our Presiding Bishop G. E. Patterson, a unique and anointed vision, spiritually infused and professionally articulated to answer the challenges of this new millennium. I am personally grateful to be a part of such an explosive move of God. I believe that God has divinely appointed this time for the Church of God in Christ to be catapulted to the next level of ministry. The Department of Public Relations is that vital link that bridges our church to the world. We must share with the world what God has given to the Church of God in Christ. Our message of love, reconciliation, and salvation are just a glimpse of the many blessings bestowed upon us from our heavenly Father.

As your Director of Public Relations, I want to visit every jurisdiction to help promote the Church of God in Christ's image, mission, programs, and leadership.

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has enabled me, in that he has counted me faithful, putting me into this ministry of Public Relations. To the Church of God in Christ membership, with a spirit of excitement and expectancy, paraphrasing the words of our First Assistant Presiding Bishop C. E. Blake, "I see our church in the future, and she looks much better, than she looks right now." God bless!

Sincerely,

Bishop Adrian D. Williams
Director of Public Relations
Church of God in Christ



How Will The Bush Administration Effect The Church?

In the past, COGIC leaders have had prominent relationships with American presidents. Bishop J. O. Patterson, Sr., was given the opportunity to meet with Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. Bishop Louis Henry Ford was often an invited guest of President William "Bill" Clinton. Bishop Chandler D. Owens, during his term as presiding bishop of the Church of God in Christ, was invited to several White House functions. Bishop G. E. Patterson, Bishop Charles Blake, Bishop P.A. Brooks, Bishop L.T. Walker and Bishop D.L. Lindsey are among other COGIC leaders who were highly regarded by the Clinton-Gore team. Can COGIC leadership expect the same openness and respect from the Bush administration? With the high profile and broad influence of Bishops G. E. Patterson and C. E. Blake, it would be very surprising if they are ignored by the Bush presidency. In the recent past, the issues of African-Americans were not prioritized on the Republican administration agendas. Bush seems to be attempting to alter that approach of his political party.

Religious leaders differ with respect to Bush's character and motives. Most of them have accepted the fact that despite the voting controversy, Mr. Bush is the bonafide chief executive of the United States of America. The appearance of African-Americans on the platform during the Republican convention; the appointment of blacks, Condoleezza Rice (National Security Advisor), Colin Powell (Secretary of State), and Ron Paige (Secretary of Education) to cabinet positions; and the involvement of African-American entertainers in Bush's inaugural festivities are applauded by some and interpreted as a facade by others.

President Bush's faith-based initiatives seem to be his way of bridging the gap between church and government. These initiatives could help churches and other religious organizations receive government funding to provide social services in their respective communities. Bush portrays himself as a genuinely religious man, deeply concerned about the welfare of the less fortunate. He asserts that he recognizes the important role that churches and religious organizations play in their communities. He demonstrates no hesitation in expressing his faith in God publicly. Some religious leaders welcome the proposed initiatives. Many of these leaders' churches are already

providing social services with church funds. The faith-based outreach community initiatives appear to coincide with one of Presiding Bishop G. E. Patterson's programs that will assist churches interested in developing Community Development Corporations (CDC's). CDC's provide churches the opportunity to secure funding for such community programs as youth centers and senior citizens' housing. When asked his opinion of how the Bush Administration would impact COGIC adherents, Bishop Patterson posed a question. He asked rhetorically: Could the Bush Administration, with his faith-based initiatives, be the signal that scripture is about to be fulfilled...that "the wealth of the wicked is laid up for the just? My experience has taught me that our blessings very often come from unexpected sources!"

***...Bush is pushing
faith based-
initiatives...
Bush promises to
end racial
profiling.***

What other issues will impact the church during the Bush administration? His tax cut proposal, though offering some relief in all tax brackets, is considered to favor the wealthy. His stance on the death penalty and seeming insensitivity to racial biases and racial hatred are among legitimate concerns. During his tenure as governor of the state of Texas, more inmates, (most of whom were minorities) were put to death than by any other state in America. And, he was noticeably absent at the funeral for the black man who was dragged to death by white racists in Texas. (Empirical evidence clearly shows that overall, in this nation, the death penalty has been used in more cases involving minorities and the poor than for any other group.)

Can a Christian truly balance a stance against abortion, saying that he believes in the sanctity of human life, but be a strong proponent of the death penalty? Can a genuine Christian ignore what statistics have verified time and time again - that the application of the death penalty is racially motivated and biased? As well, can a genuine Christian overlook statistics that show that minorities receive harsher prison sentences for the same offenses for which whites are offered lesser or alternative sentencing?

Estimates are that 13% to 17% of the black population engages in illicit drug use, yet, more than 60% of those imprisoned for drug offenses are black. Although this same data reveals that a larger percentage of whites use illegal drugs than minorities, the media portrays the drug issue as primarily an African-American problem. Whites

are more likely to be recommended for treatment, whereas, blacks are jailed. Black leaders are currently seeking legislative action that will release those wrongly jailed and prevent the problem. While he was president, Bill Clinton supported legislation that attempts to remedy this issue. The new administration has not yet taken a position on this issue. The position that is taken on this issue will significantly impact the perspective of many African-Americans regarding the fairness and sensitivity of the new Chief Executive.

It is promising that President Bush promises that he will outlaw racial profiling. His choice for Attorney General, John Ashcroft, a member of the Assemblies of God, whose civil rights record has been challenged, says he also believes racial profiling should be illegal. Since they both agree that it should be illegal, minorities are hoping strong legislation concerning racial profiling will emerge soon.

During the campaign debates with Al Gore, Mr. Bush made it clear that he does not support affirmative action. He stated that he was against racial quotas and favored 'affirmative access'. That ambiguous response to the issue of affirmative action is an overt revelation that Mr. Bush will possibly support his party's attempts to modify or weaken affirmative action laws and policies. Bush's African-American Secretary of State, Colin Powell, breaks from his Republican compatriots regarding affirmative action, but has not generated many allies.

How will President Bush impact COGIC members? Only the actions of the new administration over the next four years will provide this assessment. However, the issues raised in this article - faith-based initiatives, the death penalty, racial profiling, large tax-cuts for the wealthy and affirmative action - will be excellent gauges to determine our President's sensitivity to America's minority population.

By: Larry G. Britton and Kimberly Yvette Wesley

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

EPHESIANS 2:4

RAIN BIRD

by Teresa Blevins

I am a rain bird in the stormy rains.
Sometimes can't see,
but Lord You lead me.
Sometimes this rain is light,
sometimes thunders roll,
Oh, Lord deliver my soul!
He says, "Come up, come up!
My child over the storm!"

"I'm here! I'm here! Never fear!"

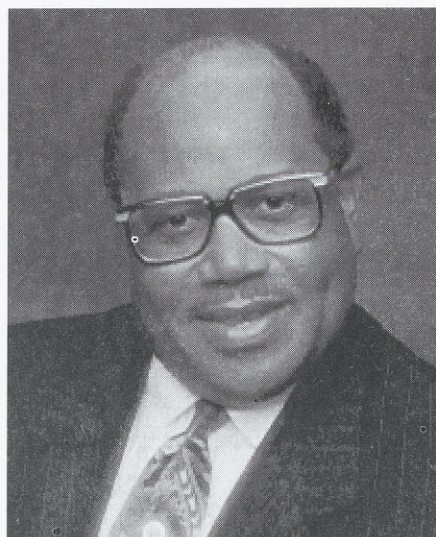
Jesus help me to do my best!
I dare not fail You, I want you to bless.
Bless, Lord, Bless!
I want you to be pleased with me
when I rest!
So under the wings of the Lord Jesus
I fly above the rain!
He says, "It's clear now
I have you in my hand.
I'll help you to stand,
I revive, I brought you through,
my rain bird I love you."

Isaiah 43: 1-11; 40: 1-31

Teresa Blevins is a member of
Pentecostal Temple Institutional
Church of God in Christ
in Memphis, Tennessee.

TWT'S SPECIAL PROFILE: DR. CHARLES E. BROWN

Hardworking and faithful, Superintendent Charles E. Brown worked on the planning and program coordination committee for the Presiding Bishop's Leadership Conference recently held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Along with key persons, such as Dr. Jerry Maynard, Bishop Adrian Williams and Mrs. Dot Hughley, Brown assisted Conference Director, Bishop Charles E. Blake, in helping to make the 2001 Leadership Conference one of the most effective conclaves ever held in the Church of God in Christ. Brown is now working on the Inaugural Planning Committee that is putting together the official installation service and inaugural banquet activities that will be held in Memphis, April 16 - 18, 2001.



Superintendent Charles E. Brown

A New Orleans native, Charles entered the ministry at the tender age of four and has preached consistently for the last four decades. He has many 'sons in the gospel' who now pastor thriving ministries. Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana in 1975 and a Master of Divinity Degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1979. One year after enrolling in a Doctor of Ministry program at Oral Roberts University, he received an honorary degree from Crenshaw Christian School of Ministry of Los Angeles, California in 1988.

Pastor Brown has served in innumerable capacities as: pastor, superintendent and administrative assistant for the Greater New Orleans Fellowship. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Fellowship of Inner-City Word of Faith Ministry (Dr. Frederick Price, Founder). He is the past president of the New Orleans Interfaith Sponsoring Committee and Vice-President of the New Orleans Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (450 churches). He has served as the Chairman of the Public Policy Commission for the Church of God in Christ. He has been the past Commissioner of the Housing Authority for the city of New Orleans and has served as a spiritual consultant to Mayor Marc Morial.

Brother Brown has preached to thousands at conferences and conventions, and led numerous seminars on leadership training. He has organized youth explosions across the country during which many young people have been saved, delivered, filled with the Holy Spirit and received the calling of God for their lives.

Among Brown's popular tape series are: "*The Abundant Life*," "*Where Is the Cloud?*," "*God's Gifted Church*," and "*This is My Jubilee*." His books include Can We All Just Get Along, The Work of the Ministry, and The Leader's Handbook (job descriptions for over 70 ministries).

Charles' lovely wife, Connie, works with him in ministry. Son, Charles II, his wife Marcia and their children, Dawn, Chad and Tiffany all serve vital roles in the music and fine arts ministry of their local church. He presently has two grandsons, Donte' Brown, Charles Brown III and one graddaughter, Parris Jonte' Brown.

On Ministry:

Brown asserts, "The part of the ministry dearest to my heart is the local church. I believe in equipping, empowering and releasing the church to reach the community. I attempt to present a gospel ministry for the whole man - spirit, soul and body."

Greatest Passion:

"To live a life of peace, joy and righteousness and help others develop

themselves in ministry."

Gauge of Success: "Family stability, financial freedom, church growth and anointing."

Childhood Heroes: "Other than my parents, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bishop F. D. Washington...."

Mentors: "My father - the late Superintendent Jerry Brown; his uncle - Bishop Lindell Brown, Bishop Charles E. Blake, and Dr. Fred Price."

Outlook on the Future: "Promising."

Life Motto: "If you are faithful to God, God will be faithful to you."

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THE PENTECOSTAL ROOTS OF JOHN ASHCROFT: *IS POLITICS THE PLACE FOR THIS BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIAN?*

Newly confirmed Attorney General, John Ashcroft, has Pentecostal roots as a member of the Assemblies of God. The son of Pentecostal pastor, the late Reverend J. Robert Ashcroft, the Missouri native had a difficult time during confirmation hearings, as much for his religious faith as for his political beliefs. On the other hand, lessons learned from his father may have positioned him to be nominated by President George W. Bush. In Bush's words, Ashcroft was selected because he was both a good man and an outstanding attorney. Bush was also attracted to the fact that John Ashcroft has been a man of faith from his youth up.

Having been reared in the Bible belt Republican stronghold of Springfield, Missouri, John was influenced by rural America's old-fashioned moral values. The rural area in which he grew was among a free-labor, anti-slave, mountain people. He was nurtured in a strict environment which did not allow smoking, drinking, or dancing. When Ashcroft left to attend Yale, his father gave him the name of an Assemblies of God congregation in New Haven, Connecticut. Ashcroft attended weekly services without fail for four years, to the surprise of the New Haven minister who had not seen very many students from the university in his congregation.

After graduating from the University of Chicago's Law School, John Ashcroft ran for Congress in 1972. Although he lost that race, another door opened three years later when he was named assistant attorney general of the state of Missouri. From the beginnings of his political career, colleagues of Ashcroft found him to

be a man of high moral standard. When the verbal banter of others tended to the profane, John Ashcroft had no problem exiting the room.

His unwavering stance on some issues stirs both excitement and worry. Fundamentalist evangelicals are excited because the staunchly pro-life Ashcroft represents the first real opportunity in years to repeal some morally repugnant legislation, such as partial birth abortions. Throughout his public-service career, Ashcroft has worked doggedly to outlaw all abortions, except in situations where the mother's life is endangered. He fought a long battle against a family who wanted to end the life of their comatose child. During his eight years as Missouri governor, Ashcroft banned the use of alcohol in the governor's mansion; and, although one of his largest campaign contributors was an alcohol brewery, Ashcroft vetoed a bill which would have allowed the sale of alcohol on Sundays.

However, proponents of gay rights, self-proclaimed First Amendment watchdogs, feminists, and the like are worried. In John Ashcroft, the position of Attorney General has someone who does more than proclaim his faith in God and who will be unswerved by pressure tactics, undue influence and amoral agendas. John Ashcroft occupies a position where some of the gains these groups have been able to make may now be endangered.

Is politics the place for this born-again Christian? With the myriad political scandals which have proliferated the media, since the days of JFK, Ashcroft's deep faith and

squeaky clean demeanor are expected to be pluses. He is known to be a private and genuinely humble man. His faith and humility are unstained by the cesspool that much of politics has become. During a 1996 speech given as he accepted the Christian Statesman Award given by Dr. D. James Kennedy, Ashcroft recalled a statement which profoundly influenced his view of politics. The statement was made by his father, who told him that "holy ground is not location, but vocation." It is wherever God has called you and whatever He has called you to do. Clearly, Ashcroft believes that politics is his calling and vocation and is committed to making a difference.

George W. Bush said he liked Ashcroft "because he is a born-again Christian." Ashcroft's mentality concerning service to others is obviously and indelibly influenced by his Pentecostal upbringing. Politics is the perfect marriage of his skills and experience as an attorney/legislator and his genuine devotion to Christ. For example, it was Ashcroft who drafted the Charitable-Choice provision of the Welfare Reform initiative in 1996. As an attorney, he had to devise a way for religious organizations to obtain government funding. As a Christian, he had to make certain the spiritual mission and integrity of religious organizations had to be preserved and respected. Ashcroft also is given credit for formulating the foundation of the faith-based community outreach initiatives of the Bush administration.

What can we, as fellow Pentecostals, expect of John Ashcroft? Do we have

the right to expect anything of him? Since he is a man who has been known from his youth to be morally upstanding; and since he is undaunted in proclaiming, as he did at a speaking engagement, that 'America has no other king than Jesus Christ,' and who shares the same religious heritage, yes, we do have a right to make certain expectations of Ashcroft. He should demonstrate publically what he demonstrates privately, the influence of Christ in his life. We expect that while he will have to follow the dictates of the law, even on issues which are against his religious convictions, compromise will not adversely affect his faith and character. Fundamental evangelicals are ecstatic over Ashcroft's appointment. Most Pentecostals can find comfort in Ashcroft's pro-life attitudes, model of faithfulness and stability. On the other hand, those who have seemingly dedicated their lives to railing against the kingdom of God will have little to feel comfortable about.

By: Larry G. Britton and Kimberly Yvette Wesley

THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
PUBLISHING HOUSE

The Lord gave the word: great *was* the company
of those that published *it*. Psalm 68:11

IS OWNED
BY THE CHURCH
AND YOU ARE THE CHURCH

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AIM CONVENTION HEADS TO THE GATEWAY CITY: ST. LOUIS

July 2- 7, 2001



This year's Auxiliaries In Ministry (AIM) convention will be held July 2nd through 7th, in St. Louis, Missouri. AIM is the COGIC's summer convention which unites the Sunday School, Music, Youth, Missions and Evangelism departments for one mega-conference.

Registration fees for the 2001 meeting are as follows:

Gold VIP Registration	\$90.00
Silver Registration	50.00
Teen Registration	25.00
Children's Registration	15.00

Convention hotels are the Millennium, Radisson, Marriott Pavilion, Hyatt Regency, Wyndham Mayfair, Embassy Suites, and Omni Majestic, and are located one mile or less from the America Center, site for the convention. The deadline for hotel reservations is May 1, 2001. Persons needing housing reservations must include a first night's deposit of \$100.00 and AIM registration fees for each room requested. Requests received after the May 1st deadline could be assigned to a hotel not included in the registration package. Reservations by telephone will not be accepted. Payment may be made by credit card, cashier's check or money order. To request registration forms or for more information, you may call 888.882.5196 or 314.916.0096. You may fax requests for information to 314.621.9467. You may also find information on the AIM website: www.aimconvention.com.

Bishop Jerry Macklin continues as president. Superintendent J. Drew Sheard joins the AIM staff as Vice-president and Evangelist LuVonia Whittley as Convention Secretary. Pastor Brandon Porter has been appointed by Bishop G. E. Patterson as the President of the International Youth Department. Pastor Alton Gatlin is the new Sunday School Department Superintendent. Renowned artist, Iris Stevenson, is the newly assigned President of the Music Department. Bishop C. L. Moody and Elder Richard White

were re-appointed as Presidents of Missions and Evangelism, respectively. Evangelist Maria Gardner succeeds Mother Reatha Herndon as the Elect Lady of Evangelism. Mother Herndon, who is over 100 years old, is now the Evangelism Department's Elect Lady-Emeritus. Bishop Jerry Macklin anticipates "record attendance and participation" at this year's conference. "St. Louis has a rich cultural history and is the famous Gateway to the West. The bishops and saints of that area are excited about hosting a COGIC National Convention for the first time in many, many years."

New Music President: "I've Come Full Circle!"

What was the director of Crenshaw High School Goodwill Ambassadors doing when she received "The Call"? Tired but fulfilled toward the end of a European concert tour, Professor Iris Stevenson relaxed in private in King Louis XVI's castle. "As I lay in my bed, I could look over the grounds toward the main castle (home of Prince Charles). I remember praising the Lord, I mean really thanking the Lord, for allowing me to be a part of history." Little did the Buffalo native know that she was about to be elevated to further service for 'The King of All The Earth.'

Her voice is still full of wonder as she explained that "The Presiding Bishop said, 'God bless you Madame (Music) President, I can hear the shock in your voice.' It was really, really, overwhelming. It was something I didn't expect because I had never campaigned or placed myself in such a situation to warrant such a position, and I do understand the amount of work it takes."

Professor Stevenson, stating that it was the Lord who caused her to be considered, was deeply humbled by the opportunity to serve the Church of God in Christ. After completing the conversation with Bishop Patterson, her initial response was shock. And as she rejoiced and praised God, she felt an overwhelming sense of peace and joy. "The joy surpassed all joys. I want it understood that the joy was not for the title or just being glad for the position. It was that I remembered my personal mentor, Dr. Mattie Moss Clark, who took me as raw material, worked with me, invested a lot of time in my ministry and shaped many of my thoughts. Now I could give some of it back."

A classically trained musician who studied at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Oberlin, Ohio, Stevenson says "I thank God for the Church of God in Christ for many, many things. One professor at Oberlin taught me that composition was 90% perspiration and 10% inspiration, but through the teaching of Dr. Clark, I learned the opposite." Dr. Clark initiated her into the world of music ministry and taught her how to blend that which she knew with the anointing of God. "She told me to reach for the anointing of the Holy Ghost, stating that the more I reached for Him, the more expansive the music would become." In fact, Stevenson says that the more she sought the Lord, something began to change in her compositions. "As I delved into the wonders of God, the more acute my writing skills became. It seemed as if my inner hearing of notes and chords increased. My knowledge is directly linked to the outpouring of the Holy Ghost within my life."

The Church also helped her to further her studies. "I owe such a depth of gratitude to the Lord and the Church of God in Christ. When I needed money for graduate studies, individuals such as Sara Jordan Powell, Fine Arts Department Director, and Julia Mason Atkins and the C.H. Mason Foundation helped me tremendously. The Lord blessed me to complete my master's degree because of the Church of God in Christ. They helped me through school."

Now Stevenson's life has come full circle. Although she previously worked on church projects (for instance she worked with Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush to help compile, edit, and arrange the 'Yes Lord' hymnal), she is excited about giving back something from the reservoir of kindnesses she has received. "This is why I've remained faithful to the Music Department and to the Fine Arts Department. Faithfulness means a lot," she says. Evangelist Sara Jordan Powell says Stevenson's great strength lies in her faithfulness.

She learned faithfulness from the only two pastors she has served since her initial salvation experience. "My pastor, Superintendent Erese Chillis, of the New Hope Church of God in Christ was a great teacher. My current pastor and father in the gospel is Bishop B.R. Benbow, pastor of the 88th Street Temple Church of God in Christ in Los Angeles. Both inspired me and taught me to strive for excellence in whatever field I endeavored to work." When Bishop Benbow and Elder Chillis heard about her appointment, both thanked God for the vision of Bishop G.E. Patterson and were overwhelmed to tears.

Life lessons taught by these pioneering fathers have anchored her as God has expanded her professionally and in her ministry. She has taught as a college professor and is currently teaching at Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles. Because of the musical program at Crenshaw, the school has been chosen to travel as Goodwill Ambassadors for the United States government. "We travel to Europe and countries in Asia three times a year and perform in forty to fifty cities per tour."

The group sings in several languages - French, German, Korean, and Tibetan - to the delight of ordinary citizens and heads of state. Stevenson says that after a Los Angeles performance, "Prince Charles hugged me and asked us to come to his house and perform, and we became personal friends." Prince Ranier of Monaco is also a fan.

While the elevation seems a natural progression, Stevenson emphatically notes that it is the Lord who has blessed her to maintain her salvation and yet work in the entertainment industry. Another strength is her capacity to traverse vastly different spheres while maintaining her focus. Her portfolio includes credits for a great number of television specials and networks, including NBC, CBS, ABC and BET, as well as records and movies. While working for Disney, strategists tapped her for her advice and the story line that developed caused a re-write. Says Stevenson, "the Sister Act movies were based on my life story. Whoopi Goldberg studied with me and her choir directing skills in the movies were the direct result of my consultations." She is currently preparing to do a show for CNN.

Stevenson feels that the biblical foundation upon which the Music Department stands is unmoveable. "From the beginning of choral music under the direction of Mother Anna Crocket Ford to the monumental foundation of my beloved mentor, Dr. Clark, the foundation has been furthered by Evangelist LuVonia Whittle. In fact, I owe her an abundance of gratitude for her gifted administration, talent, and organization of this great department." One of the first calls Stevenson made was to Evangelist Whittle to inform her of the appointment.

She has also been praying for a strategic plan for the International Music Department. "The Lord allowed me to identify the need to develop a five pronged approach to implementing a plan to enhance the vision of Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson."

Explaining that the purpose of the International Music Department is to lead willing believers into praise and worship, Stevenson adds, "First I want us to maintain our search and hunger for the anointing of God. Since our purpose is to minister through that anointing, we must maintain focused and principled objectives. With proper ministry tools, we can empower the believer. Great emphasis will be placed upon staff development and nationalized musical instructions."

The next concern is musical preservation. "We want to ensure accurate documentation, compilation, preservation and distribution of the historical perspective of our musical heritage."

Other foci are technology and global ministry. "Our technological achievements equip us for increased ministry advancement. I believe that musical ministry is constantly in forward motion. We are able to go forward without severing ties to our brilliant past. Present and future technology will be the springboard into global ministry. We are going to develop global relationships and partnerships through the promotion of cultural awareness, multi-language integration and multicultural awareness."

Energized, Stevenson paraphrases her beloved Bishop Benbow, "We are reaching for the recovery of the Spirit of God as in olden days - and empowered the Music Department stands!

By: Glenda Williams Goodson

FLY ON LOVING WINGS!

by Nikki-Kenyatta Lewis

On the wings of our Father...

We shall continue to rise!

I heard someone say to

Fly on.

I thought, "Yes, we must. Despite so many obstacles we must...

fly on!"

As the children of Israel

He's never left us, as that prophet

Jonah He's called us, and as

according to His promise we are

comforted and filled by His Spirit...speaking to all

across this world!!

Somehow He knew we could fly on and

pick up those He saw in need. For

some reason He chose us through

a harsh reality to the gin house, to the

temple, to the Cathedral!!!

Women and Men called of God to

Fly on His Loving Wings!!!!

Isaiah 40:31

FINE ARTS DIRECTOR APPOINTED



SARA JORDAN POWELL, DIRECTOR, FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

The Presiding Bishop has named Sara Jordan Powell, renowned soloist and educator, as the Director of both the C. H. Mason Foundation and Fine Arts Department. These responsibilities are not new to Sister Powell; she initially accepted these assignments during the leadership of the late Bishop J. O. Patterson, Sr., and served more than 20 years. Among numerous success stories from the Fine Arts and Foundation scholarship recipients is that of Professor Iris Stevenson, the recently appointed President of the International Music Department. (See the article in this edition of *The Whole Truth* entitled "I've Come Full Circle.")

The Mission Statement of the Foundation says "....the C. H. Mason Foundation exists (to provide) the funds and guidance of deserving (persons) who are pursuing academic, cultural and spiritual excellence through higher education."

The Fine Arts competition and scholarships are available to COGIC students between the ages of 16 and 26. General scholarships can be applied for by any COGIC member who is already in college or graduate school. The Annual Scholarship Dinner, formerly referred to as "The Presiding Bishop's Benefit Dinner" has been renamed "The Church of God in Christ Scholarship Dinner." It will be held Saturday, November 10, 2001, at 4:00p.m., during the National Convocation in Memphis, Tennessee. The banquet site is the Grand Ballroom of the Peabody Hotel. All funds raised will be used exclusively for the C. H. Mason Foundation Scholarship Fund.

MASON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY



After Lecture: Dean Oliver Haney, Bishop Adrian Williams, and Dr. Robert Franklin.



C. H. Mason Seminary Board Members: Dr. Dorothy Exume, First Mason Seminary graduate, Bishop Philip Porter, Dr. Haney & Mrs. Haney, Elder John Redic, Nat'l Alumni Assoc. President, Elder Lawrence Williams, Secretary of the Board.

The Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary celebrated its' 30th Founders' Day Celebration on Thursday, February 22, 2001. All were gathered on our campus in Atlanta, Georgia to celebrate with the other five constituent denominational seminaries that make up the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC). The event was a huge success as many students, faculty and alumni gathered with the Mason Seminary Board of Trustees to hear from Presiding Bishop Gilbert E. Patterson, who gave the official address. Bishop Charles E. Blake, who was the first Church of God in Christ graduate of the Interdenominational Theological Center in 1965, gave the closing address at the Annual Banquet held at the Atlanta Airport Hilton Hotel.

Dr. Oliver J. Haney, Jr., Dean of C.H. Mason Theological Seminary, was proud of the overwhelming success at this year's celebration. There were many jurisdictional bishops in attendance along with pastors from the Atlanta metropolitan area. Dr. Robert M. Franklin, president of the Interdenominational Theological Center, gave two lectures during the celebration this year addressing the theme, "*An Adequate Ministry for the New Millennium: Vision, Mission, Empowerment.*" Dr. Franklin was presented with the C.H. Mason Distinguished Leadership Award. Dr. Bobby Bean, instructor of COGIC History and Polity at the seminary, was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Chaplain Diana McNeil James who is also an alumna and member of the Board of Trustees, was presented the Lizzie Woods Robinson Award. Dr. Haney then announced that Bishop Charles E. Blake will be given a honorary doctorate degree during the commencement exercises to be held in May of 2001.

The seminary is excited as we move into the new millennium. The Interdenominational Theological Center is the largest African-American institute of theological education world-wide. The school has produced graduates serving in the church and community throughout the world. Members of the Church of God in Christ play a significant role at the Interdenominational Theological Center. Dr. Robert M. Franklin is the president of the consortium; Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush is the past Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Oliver J. Haney, Jr. is the longest serving dean at the ITC and will become the interim president during Dr. Franklin's sabbatical in January 2002. COGIC members, Dr. Harold Bennett and Dr. Bobby Bean are professors of Old Testament and COGIC History, respectively. Elder Quintin Robertson serves as Director of Admissions and Recruitment.

Personality Development

During my studies in seminary, I was amazed at the information I learned about myself through a course entitled "Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling." The intrigue was so great, that as I continued my studies in the Doctor of Ministry curriculum, I took another course entitled "Sociology of Pastoral Care and Counseling." I would like to share some of my findings as the foundation for this and subsequent articles.

Those who minister must be willing to become transparent. Ministry is more successful when people minister from their own bruises, pains, scars and wounds that have been healed over time through the power of God. As a result, they can effectively bring healing to others. But many times, ministers have not adequately addressed their own issues or are not willing to be used as wounded healers. They don't allow the anointing that results from their own pain and suffering to be poured out as a healing balm for others.

First, to be able to minister to others who are hurting or in denial, the minister must address his or her own joys and pains, successes and failures, triumphs and tragedies which have made him or her the person he or she has become. The minister who would become a spiritual caregiver must be willing to recall his or her own story. And recalling one's story takes involved and serious reflection to revisit and edit, and thus re-author, the personal, marital, family, and ministerial stories which make up the image of self.

Reflecting upon childhood and adolescent experiences in a group setting can be helpful in discovering which ingredients make you who you are. Are there stories surrounding your birth which have shaped your self image? Are there others beside your parents who had a significant impact on your life and self identity? Are there situations from your childhood which have made an impact on your view of life and your interactions with others?

Sometimes we tell our children 'you are just like your mother,' or 'you are acting just like your father.' We say that they have their grandmother's temperament or their uncle's demeanor. The first step in understanding yourself is understanding "personality development."

The book of Proverbs instructs us that in all of our getting to acquire understanding. As social beings who are interdependent, understanding one another and ourselves is vital for self-fulfillment and happiness. Parents want to understand their children, husbands and wives want to understand each other, employers want to understand their employees and ministers want to understand their parishioners. And, ultimately we want to understand ourselves.

As the population increases, and our encounters and interactions with people increase, the need to understand each other and ourselves becomes more important. The need to understand stems from our own hopes and interests. It stems from our own selfish motivations. What can he/she do for me? We find out about ourselves by noting the similarities and differences between ourselves and others. We note the traits and characteristics they have and the traits and characteristics we have; the course of development they follow and the course of development we follow; and the ways they relate to others and the ways we relate to others. We learn who we are, what we want, and where we want to go from comparing and contrasting ourselves with others.

The process of acquiring behavior patterns and characteristics appropriate to one's own gender, family, ethnicity, social class and religious upbringing begins in early childhood. A child's first learning experiences, which begin with his family, can have an immediate and/or enduring impact on the development of personality. This process of socialization is accomplished by the mechanism of direct rewards and reinforcements by parents and others for appropriate behavior, and punishment for inappropriate behavior. When you are born, you are vulnerable. You are completely dependent on your parents or caregivers for your survival. To get your needs met and protect your vulnerability, you instinctively behave in various ways.

This behavior at first is all spontaneous, driven by your instincts to survive, but you soon learn to smile and/or cry to get

a particular reaction from your parents. You create behavioral rules for yourself that are in your best interests, at that time. This is the first stage of personality development.

Note, the focus for your developing personality at this stage is on your survival, which can involve pleasing your parents, making demands from them, being silent or whatever was needed given your circumstances. This works well during childhood. However, when you become an adult, your personality keeps doing the same thing, that is, it controls your behavior as it did when you were a child. You may have experienced feeling like your reactions to people are automatic, and that you would sometimes like to behave differently, but feel you have no control over your behavior. Perhaps you are always doing what others want you to do. If this is the case, then it is probably that in order for you to get what you needed when you were a child, it was necessary for you to develop a part of your personality that made you do what others wanted you to do. And this part of your personality is still acting in those same ways. It is not aware that the behavior may not be good for you now, but it makes you act that way because deep down it believes this is necessary.

In childhood, you discovered that some behaviors were not to your advantage. For many, these would include being aggressive and selfish. In some family situations, however, being aggressive is necessary for a child's survival. So the child sorts his behaviors into 'yes' behaviors and 'no' behaviors. This process continues throughout childhood and into adulthood and, in fact, for the rest of your life. And it largely determines what kind of personality characteristics you will have.

What we have learned is that persons who are passive or aggressive were reared in environments that rewarded these behaviors. The child did what was perceived to make his or her parent or caregiver happy and to satisfy his or her own needs. In return, the child developed a security and this persona has become a part of his or her life.

Environment has many influences on the development of a child's personality, but time will not allow us to explore the Nature vs. Nurture influences on personality development. We will explore this topic in the next article, but suffice it to say, the development of our personality started in the crib and was molded as we grew into adolescence.

Elder Quintin Robertson
Director of Admissions and Recruitment
Doctor of Ministry Candidate
Interdenominational Theological Center

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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE FIRST LADY - LOUISE PATTERSON



A COGIC Woman Exclusive Interview: COME, MEET THE FIRST LADY

Mrs. Louise Patterson

Last November in Memphis, the COGIC delegates elected a new administration. During a late winter interview with Mrs. Louise Patterson, **The Whole Truth Magazine** Associate Editor, Glenda Williams Goodson, visited with the beautiful new First Lady of the Church of God in Christ. Her love for the Lord and her husband, Presiding Bishop G. E. Patterson, has helped in his ascendancy to the highest office in the Church of God in Christ. She is a warm, compassionate and down to earth woman whose grace and dignity befit a steely resolve to be all that the Lord and her husband would have her to be.



Mrs. Louise Patterson

She stopped from her whirlwind of activities to talk about the love of her life, her philosophy on marriage and what it means to partner in ministry with such an anointed man of God.

The Whole Truth: Dr. Britton and the staff want me to convey our appreciation to you for taking time out of your schedule for this exclusive interview.

Mrs. Louise Patterson: I'm just glad that we finally had this opportunity to talk. I want to first thank God for all the prayers and support from the people of God who have been supportive of my husband. It is through prayer and faith in God that we are able to do the work of the kingdom.

The Whole Truth: We know you probably have a dizzying array of things to do, especially now. What have you been working on since the election?

Mrs. Patterson: It's really been something! Let's see...I direct the activities of the Temple of Deliverance Women's Department. This is one of the major roles I enjoy

tremendously. And now I'm working with the Inaugural Banquet Committee in their plans to celebrate the election of my husband....

We also have the continuing and awesome task of reading and answering correspondence sent to the Bishop by the thousands. I have the lead on that. Day after day, we pray and consult with one another over countless letters and then decide how to respond to the senders' needs.

TWT: You are busy. But whatever our husbands are working with, they need us to support them, which leads me to my next question. Many of us have observed you and Bishop Patterson through the years and have observed your obvious adoration for one another. Some have even called you the 'lovebirds of the Church of God in Christ.' How has your shared passion helped you to create a healthy partnership?

Mrs. Patterson: The church is my husband's life. He lives, eats and breathes it and is always thinking of ways to win souls. Since I love my husband, I do whatever I can to assist him. While growing up, I observed how my parents worked together...and worked things out.

TWT: Tell us about your family.

Mrs. Patterson: My father, Arthur Americus Dowdy, and mother, Alma Louise Dowdy, were loving parents who taught the value of hard work. I learned unselfishness from growing up in what I laughingly refer to as a tribe of a family.

TWT: So how did your childhood values transfer into your marriage?

Mrs. Patterson: Even as a young girl, I knew I'd be loyal, to the person I would eventually marry and would avoid separations and divorce. My father was not a skilled person; but, he was a good provider and my mom was a homemaker. They stayed together until death.

TWT: And from that paradigm you learned...

Mrs. Patterson: I learned to be 'a stand by your man' kind of woman. I know there are some issues individuals have...tragic circumstances... but many people today - in and out of the church- take the easy way out by separating and divorcing.

TWT: So you and the Presiding Bishop never had quarrels that caused you to want to get away?

Mrs. Patterson: Please don't misunderstand. We have had quarrels just like any other couple. But we have never had any knockdown drag-outs. And we have always found our solution in prayer.

TWT: So you work it out?

Mrs. Patterson: We make it our business not to stay angry too long. (She laughs.) We have our own body antics. For instance, after an argument, when we rub feet, we're letting each other know that everything's all right!

TWT: That's priceless. That's real.

Mrs. Patterson: Yes, we're real.

TWT: Tell us more about your childhood.

Mrs. Patterson: I grew up in the Methodist Church. My parents and the church taught me that your name is the only thing you really have. I know that some think I am really into fashion and I am. In fact, I have been what you could called a "primer" since I was a little girl. I have always been mindful of how I should project myself...but there is more to life than the outward self. A person's outward image should be a reflection of the inner life...what's going on inside.

TWT: That should really be our focus, what's going on inside. An inward focus will ensure that we all

have better relationships.

Mrs. Patterson: I have always tried to go that extra mile for peace. If you step on my left foot, I will give you my right. I am not confrontational at all.

TWT: Are you a native of Memphis?

Mrs. Patterson: Yes, born and raised. I graduated from Booker T. Washington High School then worked briefly in an office. After that, I did some local modeling and fashion shows....

TWT: So really your family life, principles, and inner beauty were setting you up to be a woman others would one day emulate.

Yes, we're real.

Mrs. Patterson: I tried to show, even before I met the Lord, that I was an individual of principle. And I'll tell you, I think one connection the Bishop had with me was my keen sense of principles. The Pattersons had always been prominent church people and my husband had always been very particular about the people



Sister Louise Patterson explaining the Word of God

with whom he associated himself.

TWT: Thank you for allowing me to segue into your introduction to the Presiding Bishop. Inquiring minds want to know - how and when did you meet Bishop Patterson?

Mrs. Patterson: When I met my future husband, I had no intention of courting, much less, marrying him. At the time he was serving as co-pastor of the Holy Temple Church of God in Christ where his dad, Bishop W.A. Patterson, was the pastor. My husband...it was his life that really drew me. Here was a young man who lived holiness. I had never been

TWT: What do you mean that he lived holiness? Was it his preaching, the way he carried himself?

Mrs. Patterson: It was his character....His character was of such that I wanted the kind of confidence and peace that I saw he had....Something was lacking in my life and his message triggered a response that was life altering.

TWT: So when did you get saved?

Mrs. Patterson: I always went to church, but I had never experienced the Lord in a personal way. I got saved on May 22, 1964, under my future husband's ministry. The Lord touched me in a personal way and after that I was led into the fullness.

TWT: Higher heights and deeper depths...

Mrs. Patterson: Yes. From that first encounter with the Lord, I learned that there were greater things that God can do for and in a person's life. Living a life filled with the Spirit...is a wonderful thing.

TWT: That's beautiful. So you were saved under his ministry! When did

you start dating?

Mrs. Patterson: Before long we began our courtship. He was very young....and I got acquainted with him in the small church. I learned that he was a God sent and God fearing man. Why, there's not a selfish bone in his body or an unforgiving one!

TWT: I've read that the courtship was sweet and brief.

Mrs. Patterson: A year later, we were united in holy matrimony. During those infant years in the ministry, since I had not been in the church that long, I had to get accustomed to the doctrines and rituals in the Church of God in Christ. But, in those years of sacrifice, the Lord taught me how to flow in Him as I assisted my husband in the ministry.

TWT: So you learned to really sacrifice for the ministry?

Mrs. Patterson: During those days, I learned that my husband would make any sacrifice for the good of the church. Our first church was at 1254 Wilson and we outgrew it. We did not have much, but early on in the ministry we helped educate students who wanted to go to college. Next, the church relocated to Daggett Road in the Walker Homes area. We went through. Although my husband's parents were always there for him, he (was) his own man. He yet is his own man.

TWT: You say that with obvious pride.

Mrs. Patterson: I am proud of him and the life he has lived. A lot of people have misunderstood his stand on principles, but I stood by him.

TWT: What were some of the sacrifices the two of you made for the ministry?



Sister Louise Patterson during the grand opening of the new location

Mrs. Patterson: There were many.

TWT: Just give our readers a couple of instances.

Mrs. Patterson: I remember more times than I care to recall that while my husband built his ministry, there were times we had the choice to keep our lights and other utilities on at the house or keep the church's lights on. We usually kept the church running. Other times, I had to buy groceries from the change I had saved in waste baskets, but it was worth it.

TWT: Did you work in any auxiliary during this time?

Mrs. Patterson: Whatever I could do to help. I worked in the Sunday School, sang in the church choir....

TWT: And watched the Lord bless the ministry?

Mrs. Patterson: I watched the ministry grow to the downtown location at 547 Mississippi Street to a worldwide mega-ministry. The Lord blessed the congregation to continue its growth and we had to add a wing. Then we purchased the 250 E. Raines Road church.

TWT: Then you had more explosive growth? When did Bishop and the congregation decide to build the

exquisite Temple of Deliverance?

Mrs. Patterson: We had to put chairs in the aisles. When it was time to expand again, the congregation built the 4,000 seat Temple of Deliverance COGIC at 369 G.E. Patterson.

TWT: I know you were there working and encouraging the Bishop all the way. Each time I visit, I notice something different in your beautiful church. From the time you enter and are welcomed; to the chandeliers in the entryway; to the sanctuary; everything is gorgeous. Did you have anything to do with the decorating?

Mrs. Patterson: We had a wonderful professional decorator, Margie Thompson. I worked with her on the interior. But the sanctuary, that's the Bishop's area! He worked with her in the sanctuary.

TWT: The Temple will be the official site of the service for the Quadrennial Installation of Officers for the Church of God in Christ.

Mrs. Patterson: Yes, we will host the official service for the Installation of Officers.

TWT: How did you get the street name changed to G.E. Patterson Avenue? I didn't think it could be done for a living individual.

Mrs. Patterson: God worked miracle after miracle. I wanted to do something to honor my husband while he lived.

TWT: So you are the one who came up with the brilliant idea?

Mrs. Patterson: I had a dream to rename Calhoun Street, "G. E. Patterson Avenue." Sister Rachel Miles and Sister Karen Phillips got in touch with the appropriate people. Because of the extensive arm of his worldwide ministry – in the U.S.,

France, Rome, among other foreign countries – we were able to convince the city that he portrayed Memphis all over the world.

TWT: So they approved it? My local church is in its 50th year anniversary and we are trying to get approval for an honorary street name change. Was your change honorary or permanent?

Mrs. Patterson: It was unprecedented. The Memphis City Council honored him by renaming the street. “G. E. Patterson Avenue” is not an honorary change but it is the actual street name that will be on the city map and in the postal system. We call it a miracle because the city council voted unanimously to change it. They will no longer do that for anyone who is alive.

TWT: You have been very busy. What are your plans for the future?

Mrs. Patterson: I know that now I will be busier than ever. We have always been very instrumental in youth ministry and in education. We have a church full of children. I see myself doing more throughout the church.

TWT: You have been quietly successful down through the years. You are virtuous, friendly, warm and compassionate. Is there anything that upsets you?

Mrs. Patterson: I'll concede this. If you want to get me riled, just act unfairly toward my husband. I know that I am sensitive when adverse things are voiced about Bishop Patterson because my husband is a good man. When he is misunderstood, no one hurts more than I do. And really, he should be honored for his work because it speaks for him. My husband recently preached a message from I Kings 17 where the prophet says to the woman to give him to eat. But when I re-read a particular passage, I thought the 24th verse could also adequately describe my husband, a 21st century man of God. The scripture reads, “Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth.”



Mother Louise Patterson & Bishop G. E. Patterson

TWT: With a woman like you at his side, he will have the freedom to take the Church of God in Christ to new levels of global ministry as he preaches and ministers the word from the Lord. Thank you again for your time. Is there anything else you want to add?

Mrs. Patterson: Thank you for interviewing me. Just let the people know that I love the Lord; I love my husband; and I love the Church of God in Christ.

*“Whoso findeth a wife
findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.”*

Proverbs 18:22

Church of God in Christ Women In Science and Technology

The Church of God in

Christ has among her constituents women

in all areas of service to the church and humanity. This issue focuses on COGIC women in science and technology. In this article you will meet a physician, two computer scientists, a dentist and a microbiologist. These women represent thousands of saved, sanctified and Holy Ghost filled women throughout the world who have allowed God to use their minds in the discipline of science.

CAROLYN TOLBERT

Carolyn Tolbert, a native of Washington, D.C., works in the program analysis branch of the National Institute of Health (NIH). After graduating D.C.'s public school system, she majored in microbiology and minored in zoology at Howard University. "Initially, I was in the pre-med program with a goal of getting into medical school, but I decided to go into research," Tolbert says. After receiving her Master's degree, she worked for seven years at the NIH. The Burtonsville, Maryland resident lives with husband, Minister Herman Tolbert, Jr., and sons, Herman III (a junior at Morgan State University) and Christopher.



Carolyn Tolbert

Mrs. Tolbert says the NIH funds a lot of the AIDS research in the country. "I review grant applications....We make sure that all of the funding is justified before Congress or any other party reviews how much money is expended." She feels that the African-American community should know that resources are available to help find a cure for some of the diseases plaguing the African-American community.

"Statistics show there is an AIDS epidemic within our community, but asthma...also

"I would recommend Howard University for any young person who wants an excellent education."

disproportionately affects African-Americans. Alzheimer's disease and breast cancer are other diseases found in our community. People need to know how much is being spent to promote awareness and find cures in our community."

Mrs. Tolbert grew up in the New Bethel Church of God in Christ under the leadership of Jurisdictional Prelate, Bishop Sherman Howard. Her COGIC service includes acting as chairlady of the youth department for three years. Minister Tolbert serves as president of the Samuel Kelsey District YPWW.

Carolyn Tolbert offers sound and encouraging advice to young people. She says, whatever the goal, if youth put God first, they will find that they can do anything. In the field of science, she directs students to work hard, and establish disciplined study habits. More importantly, she says, "In all of our getting, we need to realize that with getting a secular education, we must not forget to study God's word. Through His word, you can maintain your salvation and He will give you the strength to complete your studies and triumph over your trials." Of her alma mater, Tolbert proudly proclaims, "I would recommend Howard University for any young person who wants an excellent education."

DIANE WOODARD

Diane Woodard knows what it means to serve. Naturally, the career she chose to pursue would be in the arena of helping

those who need medical care. She says, "Part of who I am is to work...that's what I've done all my life." Woodard is the youngest daughter of Texas COGIC pioneer, the late Bishop R. E. Woodard, Sr. Growing up at Williams Temple-Woodard Cathedral COGIC, she worked wherever she was needed.

She graduated from Texas Southern University School of Pharmacy in 1977 and lived in Los Angeles, California, before returning to Texas to care for her ailing

Woodard is the youngest daughter of the Texas COGIC pioneer, the late Bishop R.E. Woodard, Sr.

father in 1989. "Back then, it took five years to matriculate through pharmacy school, now it takes six. I am licensed to practice in other states and I am a registered pharmacist in

the state of Texas." Woodard says persons interested in a future in pharmacy should consider one of three areas: community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy, and nuclear medicine. "I work as a community pharmacist. My title is Pharmacy Manager for the Kroger family of stores." Woodard says it is critical that pharmacists dispense the proper medicine. At Kroger, she counsels patients to ensure that they

take the proper dosage and makes them aware of possible side effects. "I'm here to serve the community and I feel that it is my duty not only to read and fill out prescriptions, but also to take time with the patients, especially older citizens." She is the mother of Byron (a Naval Academy graduate who works at Merrill Lynch) and Rhondia (a student at Southern California-Irvine) and is the grandmother of four year old Destinee.



Dr. Diane Woodard

Active in the church, she works closely with her eldest brother, Bishop R.E. Woodard, Jr. Bishop Woodard is also her pastor and jurisdictional prelate. She says, "I just do what needs to be done. I serve on the church's trustee board and work with many of the auxiliaries. I also serve in the jurisdiction's executive cabinet and Public Relations Department. I also work closely with my State Supervisor, Mother Millie Howard, on the advisory board and also with its public relations activities. Woodard says, whatever career path youth choose, they should acknowledge God in all their ways and He will direct their paths.

DR. G.A. JOHNSON-RODGERS

Dr. G.A. Rodgers shares a compelling story. When she was four years old, she overheard a conversation between her mother and some neighbors. That conversation impacted her life greatly. "A black person had a car accident. When the doctor found out the accident victim was black, he wouldn't wait on him and he died," she recalls. Rodgers felt the hurt of the whispering adults. She reacted by bandaging neighborhood cats and dogs. As she grew older, she cared for the elderly. By the time she graduated, Rodgers told her mother she would become a doctor. "Actually, from the time I heard the story, my heart was set," she says.

There was a problem the Shaw Mississippi, native had to overcome - where would the finances for college and medical school come from. "My father, James Wheeler Johnson, died when I was in the first grade and my mother, Elizabeth White Johnson, a homemaker, never remarried." Somehow the Lord made a way. Rodgers and her siblings, Gwendolyn and Jimmie, all finished college and obtained masters degrees.

Dr. Rodgers became the first black to graduate from the University of Iowa with a Master's Degree in Radiation Biology.

Dr. Rodgers graduated from Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi. She then became the first black to graduate from the University of Iowa with a Master's degree in Radiation Biology. She entered the Harvard University pre-med program. While in Iowa, she served under Bishop and Mrs. Hurley Bassett.

She met her husband, a physician, while she was an undergraduate. "When we got to Iowa, he asked if I would go out with him. I told him no. He called every day for a year at exactly the same time. Finally, I said 'yes' and we will be married 20 years (this) June 2nd," Rodgers says. As the couple prayed for a place to set up their practices, she says, "the Lord showed us Georgia in a vision." The location was near Lexington where her husband grew up.

Rodgers was saved and filled with the Holy Ghost more than 20 years ago. The couple and their four children, Gwen (15), Charles Jr. (8), Elizabeth (6) and Adam (3), are in the business of healing both bodies and souls. Her husband is pastor of the Cathedral of Prayer COGIC. Dr. Rodgers has been a Prayer and Bible Band leader, fund-raising chairperson, intercessory prayer leader, Sunday School superintendent and teacher, and jurisdictional chair of education for the Central Georgia Jurisdiction. She and her husband Elder Rodgers conduct marriage and medical seminars.

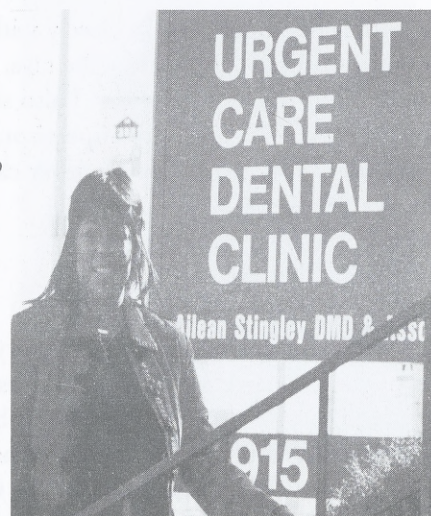
Other church and community outreach involvements include clothing and food banks, outreach counseling, assisting the elderly in an adult day treatment program and serving on the International Friendship Board. Dr. Rodgers sees the medical field as a natural entree to service. "I offer medical services in the evening because I found many people couldn't take off work to visit a doctor's office during the day. I contact drug companies to get stock bottles of medicine and make house calls." During these visits, she has the opportunity to talk to youth about morality, purity and counsels about suicide. "I offer medical advice and pray for them. One young man was suicidal and after I talked with him, he looked at life differently. Sometimes girls, virgins, come to me as they contemplate their first sexual encounter. I advise them prayerfully about abstinence." The combination of care, compassion, and medical advice works. For instance, a mother, at her wits end, gave her violence-prone son to Dr. Rodgers. "He's 23 years old now, a minister in the church and married with two children. That's what I'm about - being a doer of God's word and showing care."

Dr. Rodgers was recently honored by being named Supervisor of Women to Nigeria. She says, "I am excited about Nigeria. There, the U.S. dollar will purchase about 100 Nigerian dollars. I'm going there to purchase land for facilities the Women's Department will use to house, feed and provide medical care for the people." Dr. Rodgers says it is awesome when young people realize that God is God and there is nothing we can do without Him. "They have to know that He's so faithful, even if we make a mistake, we can get up knowing that He loves us!"

DR. ALLEAN STINGLEY

At Urgent Care Dental Center, patients have come to know that they are in good hands with Dr. Allean Stingley. Since becoming a Doctor of Oral Medicine ten years ago, she has found a client base upon which she fulfills her edict from God to serve. After observing that people needed care after hours, and no one was available, she established a clinic to meet their needs. "Urgent Care is the first in the area to serve patients after hours and on weekends. We serve indigent patients and I enjoy what I've been doing."

Dr. Stingley understands that God does lead in mysterious ways and has come to rely on His direction in every area of her life. She didn't start out with the goal of becoming a dentist. Armed with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications (Radio/Television) from the University of Southern Mississippi, she sought a career in broadcasting. "After I was attracted to medicine, I earned a Master's in Public



Dr. Allean Stingley

Dr. Stingley's television program - 'FOR YOUR HEALTH'

Health from the University of Southern Mississippi." After receiving a Doctorate in Oral Medicine from the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry, God's plan began to come together. "People are afraid of things they don't know," she said. So, she began a local television program 'For Your Health,' which features professionals from diverse backgrounds and important to the area she lives in. "We have a viewership of 72,000 and we serve a need."

She and her husband are very active at the Liberal Trinity COGIC where Bishop Hollis Musgrove is the pastor and jurisdictional prelate. Stingley has served as Director of Fine Arts (for the jurisdiction) since 1992. She has been a choir member and has also worked in the Missionary Department. As Executive Director of the Theo Davis Scholarship fund, Dr. Stingley reports the jurisdiction has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to students to help fund their education. As Director of Education, Dr. Stingley says, "We focus on any achievements they (the students) have been able to attain and give incentives. My desire is to lead (the young people) to continue to excel."

VERA MARTIN

"In high school, we had punch cards," says Martin, who remembers how the world of computers evolved. When she entered the University of California at Berkley, she planned to major in mathematics, but as destiny would have it, she-

chose fields where there were few women at the time, electrical engineering and computer science. Says Mrs. Martin, "the Lord just directed me."

The Lord had great things in store for Mrs. Martin at Berkley. "In the state of California, we have the cooperative program. You work for six months and go to school for six months." I ended up working for the government at the Nuclear Experimentation Science department in Nevada," she explains. Before working at the missile and bomb test site, Martin had to go through government clearance procedures. "The CIA and FBI even find out where your mother was born," Martin says.

The Como, Mississippi, native received her undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. She then went to work for IBM. These were exciting days in the rapid fire world of computer processing and she was blessed to attend the state of the art "IBM School" in Portland, Oregon. After that, she worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad in San Francisco. Her current position is that of Computer Software Engineer at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in Oakland.

She is a life long member of the Church of God in Christ. At her home church, Ephesian COGIC, she served with Bishop E.E. Cleveland. "I served as a YPWW teacher, Sunday School teacher, and sang in the choir. We also had a witnessing group called the Commandos for Christ." She also loaned her professional skills to improving church record keeping. In the past, the ledger of credential holders was completed by hand, with approximately 25 typists working. "We put it all on computers," she says. Mrs. Martin computerized the first listing of bishops, state supervisors, missionaries, evangelists, etc. "With Bishop German Reed Ross, I worked as the first computer scientist in the COGIC and computerized the first registration for UNAC in 1982. I also worked with Bishop Roy Winbush as the registration coordinator for that conference."

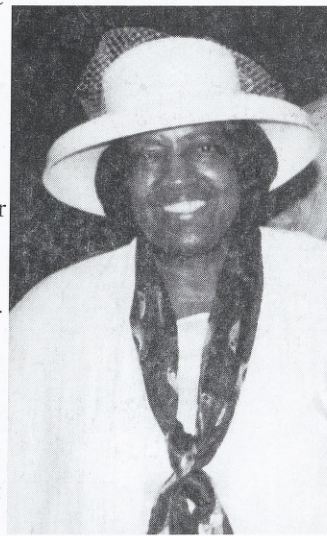
Martin, and her husband Robert Lee Redmond Martin, have three children, Daniel, Dennielle and Robert. She serves at the Mingleton Temple COGIC, where Elder John M. Evans is the pastor. "I've worked with the Sunday School, Purity Class, Sunshine Band, and youth choir." On the national level, she serves as one of the Western Regional Coordinators for Scholastic Motivation Ministries under the direction of Dr. Michael Eaddy.

Martin has assisted many youth. They have been helped through her motivational speaking engagements. She encourages them to keep God at the forefront of their lives and He will give them the desires of their hearts - whether working for the church, in the field of science or in any other endeavor they want to pursue.

DR. BARBARA LYLES

Dr. Barbara Lyles was a member of the National Honor Society in high school. That may not seem extraordinary until you consider that she entered high school at age 12 and entered St. Louis University at age 15. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics (Statistics). She holds masters degrees in Secondary Education, and Business Administration (Logistics Management) from Nova University-Florida Institute of Technology and doctorates in Biblical Studies (International Seminary/Florida) and Philosophy (St. Louis University).

She has held "first" positions in many areas. "It is amazing how the Lord opened doors for me in math and science. This is critical in the business. At age 19, I supervised 23 employees of all races at the United States Military Records Center in St. Louis." In fact, she's served in many federal service positions, including developing a world wide computer system for configuration control of all Army aircraft implemented throughout the United States and abroad. "The jobs gave me the opportunity to travel throughout the world. I have been to China, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Egypt and Europe." Dr. Lyles says she knows she has been blessed to be positioned in strategic places at opportune times. Early in her career, at the Army Aviation Systems Command, she was told by her supervisor that race would prevent her from advancing to another position. She found favor with the commanding general, who gave the order, "If she's the best qualified, send her!" Dr. Lyles says, "I earned the distinction of being the first minority female executive to occupy chief positions in the U.S. Aviation Systems Command and to officiate as the Vice President and Secretary to the Armed Forces



Dr. Barbara Lyles

Management Association.”

During this time, she interacted with presidents of prominent businesses in the aviation industry and briefed commanding officers throughout the U.S. and abroad regarding aviation development. “I headed a task force in developing baseline cost estimates for the U.S. Scout Helicopter - one of the finest pieces of aircraft developed by the Army - and other aircraft. While I did not pilot the aircraft, my job did entail testing them. I had special authorization to fly and was the only female and the only black to do so at that time.” Her tasks included determining the capacity of aircraft, including German aircraft. She went through the same intensive training NASA employs with its astronauts. Says Dr. Lyles, “I dared not complain, because I was a female.”

Dr. Lyles said the best thing that ever happened to her was “when I was baptized with the Holy Ghost at age 11. Bishop Mason baptized me in the Mississippi River.” Dr. Lyles is now a member of the Kossuth COGIC pastored by Elder Robert Strong. She has held numerous positions in the church, including, Sunday School Superintendent. She is a member of the First Jurisdiction of Eastern Missouri’s Department of Education and a member of the C.H. Mason Foundation Board. Along with Vera Martin, she coordinates Scholastic Motivation Ministries for AIM’s western region.

Dr. Lyles wants young people to know that “background is important, because it will open doors for you. I was brought up in holiness and adhered to the doctrine. That’s the major attribute to my success.” Dr. Lyles is also an evangelist, educator, writer and historian. She has authored a number of books and pamphlets. Her latest books are: **Prominent People and Places and Biblical Lands, A Historical Perspective of the COGIC 1897 - 1990**, and, **Pentecostal Missiology and the Motivating Power of Church Growth**.

Dr. Lyles entered high school at age 12 . . . St. Louis University at age 15.

***“I headed a task force in developing baseline cost estimates
for the U. S. Scout Helicopter.”***

***The best thing that ever happened to her was
“when I was baptized by the Holy Ghost at age 11.
Bishop Mason baptized me in the Mississippi River.”***

Writer's Conference

Writer's! Writer's! Calling all writer's! The Church of God in Christ Publishing House needs you! If you are a writer and/or believe you have a gift or calling to write, the Church of God in Christ Publishing House is interested in you!

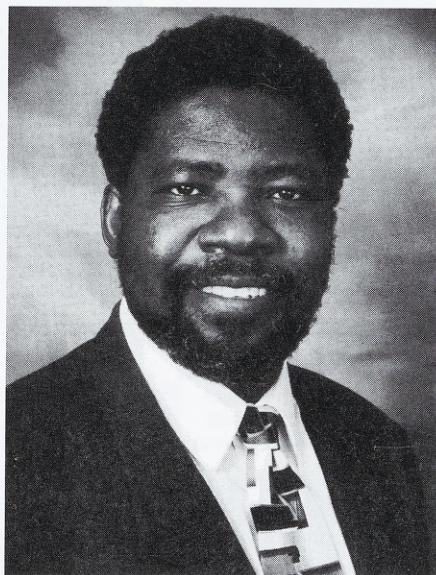
If you will be attending the Annual Spring General Assembly, convening April 16-19, 2001 in Memphis, Tennessee, remain until the final day! The publishing house will be sponsoring a writer's conference conducted by Chief Executive Officer, Dr. David A. Hall, Sr., and Proof-Text Specialist/Editor, Nikki-Kenyatta Lewis, M.Div. The focus for the writer's conference will be "Developing Manuscripts and Curriculum." The conference is for all those interested in making a contribution to their church in the area of writing. Whether an accomplished author or novice, you are invited.

The presenter of the seminar will be A. Okechukwu Ogbonnaya, Ph.D., of the Urban Ministries Inc., in Calumet City, Illinois. A few of the topics to be covered are: *What Curriculum Development Is; How One Develops an Effective Curriculum*; as well as, *Current Trends in Curriculum Designs*.

Whether attending or not, please prepare a sample of your writing and/or curriculum lesson plan and send it or bring it in. The conference will convene on Thursday, April 19, 2001 at the Church of God in Christ Publishing House, 291 Hernando St., Memphis, Tennessee. It will be from 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. Participation will include a free lunch and a free lecture. Submit samples to the COGIC Publishing House, Attn: Writer's Conference, P.O. Box 2017, Memphis, Tennessee 38101. For more information, contact us by calling (901) 947-9342.

AGENDA

Invocation
Lunch Served
Welcome/Theme
Purpose/Introduction of Speaker
Speaker
Seminar
Question/Answer Session
Remarks
Closing Prayer



A. Okechukwu Ogbonnaya, Ph.D.
Urban Ministries, Inc.

The Lord gave the word: great *was* the company of those that published *it*. Psalm 68:11

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2001



The Presiding Bishop challenged the conclave with his message on "The Anointing."
Photo by Keith Little



Left to Right - Assistant Presiding Bishops
 C.E. Blake and J. N. Haynes delivered
 profound Conference addresses.
Photo by David A Hall, Sr.



Madam Enailly Bram-Bibby inspired
 the leaders on Wednesday morning
 in "vintage" Bibby fashion.
Photo by David A Hall, Sr.



Bishop Blake acknowledges key conference leaders: Left to right
 behind Blake - Dr. Jerry Maynard, Dr. Charles Brown and Bishop
 Adrian Williams (Public Relations Director).
Photo by Keith Little



New director of COGIC conventions, Dot Hughley, pauses from Conference
 coordination along with world headquarters workers, Linda Wilkins and
 Sandra Allen.
Photo by Keith Little

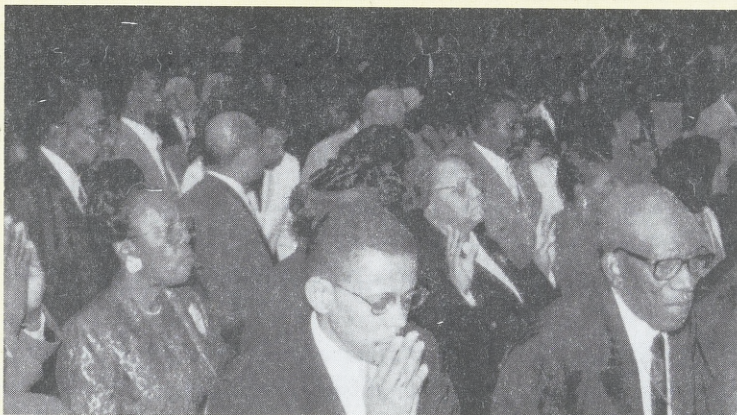


AIM President, Bishop Jerry Macklin,
 sharing AIM initiatives in his class
Photo by Keith Little

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2001



The second night's address was given by Evangelist Leola Wells. *Photo by Keith Little*



The capacity crowd gathered in one of the ballrooms of the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando. *Photo by David A Hall, Sr.*



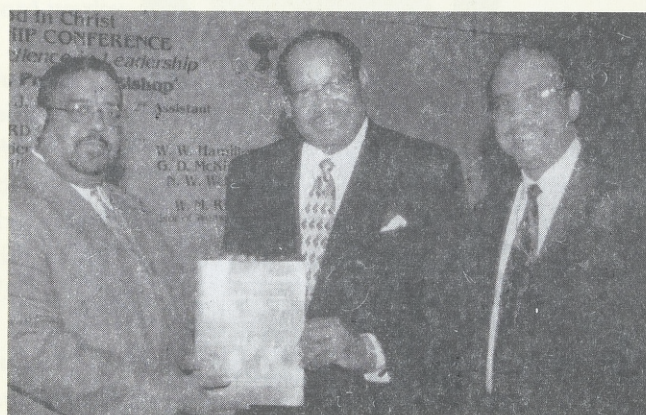
Pursuing excellence.

Photo by David A Hall, Sr.



These leaders pause to pray together.

Photo by David A Hall, Sr.



TWT Editor, Larry Britton, presents Whole Truth to the Presiding Bishop who is flanked by Bishop R. L. H. Winbush

Photo by David A Hall, Sr.



New General Board members, (left to right:) Bishop Nathaniel Wells and Bishop George McKinney, are seated next to Assembly Chairman, Bishop J. O. Patterson, Jr.

Photo by David A Hall, Sr.



Presiding Bishop with Council Chairman, Pastor Derrick Hutchins.

Photo by Keith Little

UNDERSTANDING THE PRINCIPLES AND CONDITIONS OF THE SPOKEN WORD

By Dr. Larry Britton

(Part II of a Two Part Series continued from First Quarter 2001 Whole Truth)

Hebrews 11:3 says, *"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God - so that things that are seen were not made of things which do appear."* God, simply by speaking, brought forth things out of nothingness. The Genesis account says God said, *"Let there be light and there was light."* He separated light from darkness "through his words;" "he divided the seas through his spoken words." He called forth grass and trees and the earth itself and then in effect congratulated himself by declaring that it was good. Again and again, as God created beasts and birds, the writer of Genesis says, "and God saw that it was good." Now, you may say, God's ability to speak and bring forth things is what makes him 'God' and us only humans! But the word of God clearly establishes that there is power in 'our' spoken words as well!! Part 1 of this series established that the spoken word can be used either for us or against us! "You can literally talk your way into a blessing or you can talk your way out of a blessing!"

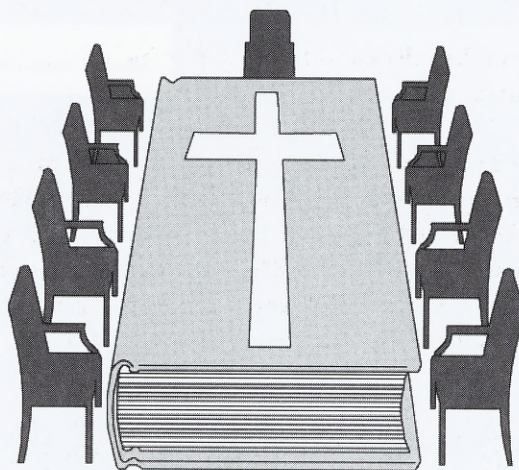
Negative words can nullify the positive results that spoken words can bring about!! II Corinthians 4:13 says, *"We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; We also believe and therefore speak!"* The 'spirit of faith' of which Paul spoke is to speak that which we believe. John 6:63 says: *"The words I speak are Spirit and they are life!"*

Jesus put no restraints on what we could 'talk' our way into because he declared in a 'faith and word' foundational text, Mark 11:22 and 23, *"Have faith in God! Whosoever shall say unto this mountain be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."*

We have the power and authority to call all these things into existence because of what Jesus declared in this passage. We can literally change our environments based on what the word of God teaches regarding this awesome principle. The word of God reveals that God himself calls those things that are not as though they were. (Romans 4:17: *"As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations. Before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were."*) Significantly, we discover, through Jesus' response to Peter regarding his cursing of the fig tree, that we, too, have been given an extraordinary gift to speak forth life or death or fruitfulness. Let's look at St. Mark 11:12. Verse 12: *"And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, (Jesus), was hungry."*

Make this declaration: My condition sets the stage for what I need to call forth into my life. Think about what you need from God!! Jesus' need was food; he was hungry. St. Mark 11:13-15: *"And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon, and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for the time of the figs was not yet."* Jesus saw the fig tree from a distance and was hoping he would find some figs on it to satisfy his hunger (need) - but he was disappointed because he found nothing but leaves.

Verse 14: *"And Jesus answered and said unto it, no man eat fruit of you hereafter forever and the disciples heard it."* (Jesus expected fruit because of the leaves, so he was angered by its appearance of fruitfulness. His anger with the fig tree typi-



fied God's anger with the nation of Israel which had a form of godliness - they were religious (full of leaves) but without substance (fruit).

Verse 15: *"And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves."*

This verse describes a scene at the temple. The temple was supposed to be a place of worship but they had turned it into a place for merchandising. So, like the cursing of the fig tree - he chastened the fruitless religious people in the temple. But verse 20 sets the stage for a powerful lesson on faith and the spoken word. Verse 20: *"And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots."* Remember, Jesus had said "never again will you disappoint anybody with your fruitlessness!" The fig tree was dried up from the roots. Jesus does all things well and completely!

Verse 21: *"And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Behold, the fig tree which thou curseth is withered away."*

Verse 22: *"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God."*

Let us establish the conditions upon which the spoken word works:

Number 1: Make this declaration: If the words I speak are going to bring things forth, I MUST HAVE FAITH IN GOD!!! A lot is taught today about self-confidence and self-esteem and the power of positive thinking - but remember "powerful words begin with powerful faith in God!" Verse 23: *"For verily I (JESUS) SAY UNTO YOU...."*

Number 2: If your words are going to bring forth fruit into your life - Jesus must have declared it so.

Remember and declare this: "My words have power, if my words are backed by God's word!!" *"...That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea..."* (Mark 11:23a).

Number 3: Make this declaration:

If I expect mountains to move by my words, I must speak specifically and audibly; you cannot get a mental picture and try to move your mountain; you cannot meditate your problems away; you cannot ignore your mountains and expect time to move them. **YOU MUST SPEAK SPECIFICALLY AND AUDIBLY. LET YOUR MOUNTAINS HEAR YOU!"**

Jesus, in verse 14, spoke directly to the fig tree. **Jesus said**

unto "it." He didn't talk about the tree, he talked 'to' it. Sometimes we think 'talking' about our problems will solve them; but talking 'about' our needs will not get our needs met. "We have to talk *TO* our needs." REMIND YOURSELF: "I MUST TALK TO MY NEEDS." Jesus said unto "it." No man will eat fruit of you hereafter forever! He spoke specifically to the tree and audibly - for his disciples 'heard' it! REMIND YOURSELF: For my words to move my mountains, I must speak specifically and audibly. Folks may think you are talking to yourself, but in days to come, they will be like Peter and remember and say, "Behold! Look, the thing you called forth has come forth!!"

Verse 23 (continued): *"That whosoever shall 'say' unto this mountain be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea...."* [I must speak specifically and audibly.] **"AND SHALL NOT DOUBT IN HIS HEART, BUT SHALL BELIEVE THAT THOSE THINGS WHICH HE SAITH SHALL COME TO PASS...."**

Number 4: Declare:

"I must believe the things I say are going to happen."

You must keep a positive attitude, a positive thought; you must feed your faith! You must ignore the circumstances and recognize that your words are more powerful than your circumstances, that your words can change your environment!! The last part of verse 23 says **"HE SHALL HAVE WHATSOEVER HE SAITH!!!"**

Make this declaration: "I shall have whatsoever I say."

But in verse 24, He gives further conditions for receiving what we have called forth - *"Therefore I say unto you, what things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that you receive them, and ye shall have them!!"*

Verse 25: *"And when ye stand praying forgive, if ye have ought against any; that your father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."*

Make this declaration: *"If I want my words to bring forth the things I speak - I must have a heart of forgiveness!!"*

This article is an excerpt from **The Power of the Spoken Word** by Larry G. Britton, Copyright 1999. (Available in the COGIC Bookstore.)

BOOK REVIEW

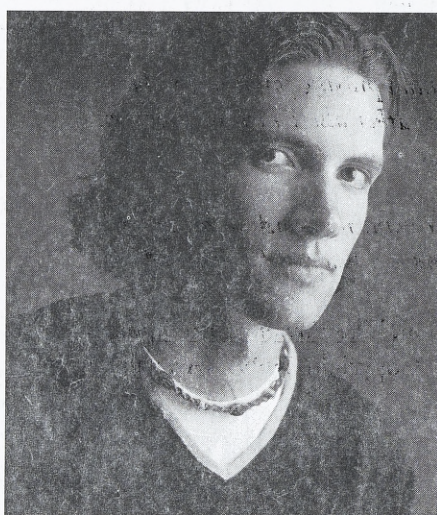
365 WAYS TO MAKE EVERY DAY A SUCCESS STORY!

Minneapolis, Minnesota--Busy, productive, focused, engaged, active, caring, responsive, responsible. The thousands of teens who are developing their own assets are all this--and more. National research based on the responses of over 370,000 young people shows that youth need developmental assets like those in *Succeed Every Day* (\$10.95, Free Spirit Publishing), a collection of 365 asset-based readings and challenges designed to make every day a success story.

From January 1 through December 31, *SUCCEED EVERY DAY* guides teens through a year of asset building by helping them to learn about, think about, and practice the qualities and skills that will help them succeed at home, at school, in the neighborhood, and in the world. Based on their extensive research, the Minneapolis based Search Institute has identified 40 development assets (20 internal and 20 external) that provide youth with the strong foundation they need to meet life's challenges. Teens with developmental assets are more likely to take positive risks like rising to the challenge, solving problems, or getting involved. And they're less likely to engage in negative behaviors such as using alcohol and other drugs or relying on violence to resolve conflict. In short, asset-building teens will most likely become responsible, caring, productive adults.

SUCCEED EVERY DAY offers the words of the famous--as well as those of the familiar, historical, and everyday--along with a brief daily essay and challenge. Teens will read what Olympians Muhammad Ali ("Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.") and Shannon Miller ("Other people may not have had high expectations for me...but I had high expectations for myself.") and recording artists Lauryn Hill ("I don't feel like my money or my success defines me. I've always been very happy just bein' me.") and LL Cool J ("I wasn't as nice a guy as I should have been all the time...And I don't have any excuses for that, I do have an explanation, though--fear and ignorance.") have to say about coping with life, knowing one's self, and giving back.

Designed to be used by even the most reluctant of readers, each day's offering will provoke, inspire, and engage young people to add to their own asset inventory by taking small, doable steps. The book includes a concise and readable



SUCCEED EVERY DAY *DAILY READINGS FOR TEENS*

explanation of the asset approach, and each entry identifies the particular asset or assets achieved by taking the day's message and challenge to heart.

SUCCEED EVERY DAY provides an easy-to-use approach that makes sense to teens and gives them lots to think about themselves, how they relate to others, and what they can do to continue to build on their successes, large and small.

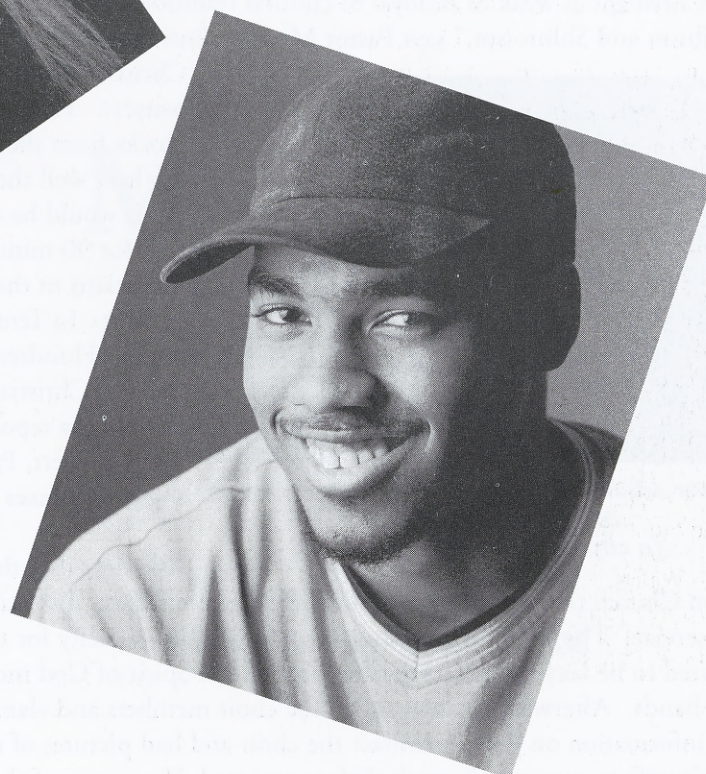
If you don't like how your life is going, if you're not comfortable with decisions you're making and directions you're taking, check out your friends. Maybe some of your problems come from trying to fit in and be like them. What else can

you do? You can try talking with them. Or you can talk with an adult you trust--someone who will listen and give you good advice. You can find new friends. You might have to be alone for a while, but if you look hard enough and in the right places, you'll meet people who are worth being liked.

TODAY

I'll think about whether my friends are helping me or hurting me.

Pamela Espeland has written and co-written many award-winning titles for young people and adults. Among them are the asset-development-based WHAT KIDS NEED TO SUCCEED (over 500,000 copies in print) AND WHAT TEENS NEED TO SUCCEED (over 40,000 copies in print), as well as MAKING THE MOST OF TODAY, a book of daily readings for teens first published in 1991, and hailed by Newsweek as "the first in the field." All available from Free Spirit Publishing.



COGIC CHOIR TOUR MAKES POSITIVE IMPACT IN JAPANESE CITIES: THE LAND OF *THE RISING SUN*

Members and supporters of the Abounding Life Church of God in Christ choir made a positive and lasting impact upon the residents of several Japanese cities during their recent tour. The tour offered the choir the opportunity to minister in three cities: Tenri, Kobe and Osaka. The invitation initially came from Elder Gerald Marks, pastor of Kobe Union Church, who met Elder James R. Adams, pastor of Abounding Life COGIC, and the choir during a 1999 concert in London, England. The Osaka Sister City Network, Osaka-Chicago Association, and International House-Osaka, all acted as concert sponsors.



Pastor & Sister Adams at a Christian church in Nara, Japan.

Some 97 members and supporters of the Abounding Life COGIC choir made the journey. The concert tour began in Tenri, Japan. Japanese Christians "live lonely and misunderstood lives. Others (Japanese non-believers) sometimes dismiss Christians as weak or disloyal to cultural traditions, responsibilities and values which are largely shaped by Buddhism and Shintoism," says Pastor Marks. Tenri serves as the headquarters location for Buddhism. The only



Pastor Adams receives 'City Plate' from Deputy Mayor of Osaka, Japan (a city with 4 million residents).

Christian church there had to apply for a government permit for the concert. The permit allowed them to use a building located only a few blocks from the Buddhist headquarters. There were doubts concerning how well the choir would be received. Local Japanese Christians felt it would be a "tremendous tool of evangelism" to have the choir sing for 90 minutes and Pastor Adams speak for about 10 minutes. Christians in the three cities fasted and prayed for the success of the concert. In Tenri, attendees stood in the rain for an hour waiting to get in. Hundreds of Buddhists came to the altar, expressing a desire to become Christians or asking for prayer for themselves and their families. Many reported healing of various ailments. (Since the end of the Tenri concert, Pastor Adams reports, "We have received letters, e-mails, and faxes from many who attended the concert.")

The next day, the choir gave two performances in Kobe, at Kobe Union Church that morning, and the Kobe Fashion Mart - ID Hall that evening. Hundreds attended the morning worship service. The 1,000 seat auditorium was filled to capacity for the evening concert. The Kobe concert attendees were expected to be very quiet and reserved, but as the Spirit of God moved, concert goers stood, smiled, waved and clapped their hands. Afterward, many greeted the choir members and clamored for cards the choir members gave out. The cards gave information on how to contact the choir and had pictures of the choir. A 50 year old Japanese man who had just lost his wife to cancer only weeks before reported, "I was one of those who were consoled greatly when the Abounding Life choir recently sang as follows: 'The Lord shall lighten my darkness, and everything will be alright.' True, everything will be alright. Praise be to God."



Enthusiastic attendees among over 1,000 people enjoy Pastor Adams & the Abounding Life Choir in Tenri, Japan.

The tour ended with a reception and concert in Osaka, Japan. This concert was officially sponsored by the government of Japan. Choir members attended a special reception and ceremony with the Mayor of the city and received pins, medallions and other gifts. A plaque was also presented to the Mayor of Osaka from Pastor Adams and the choir. Because it was a government sponsored event, Pastor Adams was not given the opportunity to preach, but did have an opportunity to share what inspired him to write some of the compositions performed by the choir. The 90 minute concert performance blessed many. In fact, Pastor Adams found out that some 4,000 people who applied for tickets had to be turned away.



Abounding Life Church of God in Christ choir in Kobe, Japan.

Pastor Adams reports that, "We have received approximately six new invitations for international travel while in Japan. One of the leaders of about 400 churches in New Zealand wants to discuss the possibility of our coming there." Choir members reported the experience changed

their lives for ever. And, the people of Japan were left with an indelible impression of Christianity. Said Japanese pastor, Yasuo Tanikase, "The visit helped those of us working in the country. Many non-Christians came to the concerts and heard the gospel. I believe that it impacted many people. The visit also encouraged local Christians immensely."

SUPPORT THE VOM

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MISSIONS

Bishop Carlis Moody
President

938 Mason Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38126

Watch and Pray!

By David Hall

On the second Sunday in February, a little church in Kentucky was phoned by an individual who claimed she was in distress. It seemed she was experiencing auto problems and needed help to repair the car. She called a local church, reached the pastor in his pulpit, but insisted her emergency demanded his immediate attention. She indicated her travels would bring her to that pastor's city if she could get her vehicle repaired. The woman stated she had a cashier's check but that it was so large the auto mechanic would not cash it. The lady stated she was Sister Terrell and a member of my congregation in Memphis. To verify the story, she suggested the pastor speak with her pastor, Dr. Hall. Someone pretending to be me came on the three way phone link, stating he was Dr. David Hall, pastor of Temple COGIC and CEO of the Publishing House. That same person went on to verify the lie and convinced the pastor to send the money. Nearly \$500.00 was sent across state lines to a check cashing firm. The pastor and the church were confided and ripped off!

Don't send anyone money without thoroughly checking out their story. Here are some hints to help the next potential victim: (1)Never assume that you are the only source of help. (2)Never allow one way phone conversations to be the source of your decision. That pastor should have taken everyone's phone numbers and called them back. But, before making those calls that pastor should have called the operator and checked the numbers. (3)If he could not verify numbers, the police should have been called immediately. Certainly, if he had called me to verify the situation before he sent the money, the church would not have been ripped off. (4)Finally, the pastor should have called the authorities in both cities and asked the police to check out the situation. There are crime units that do that type of investigation.

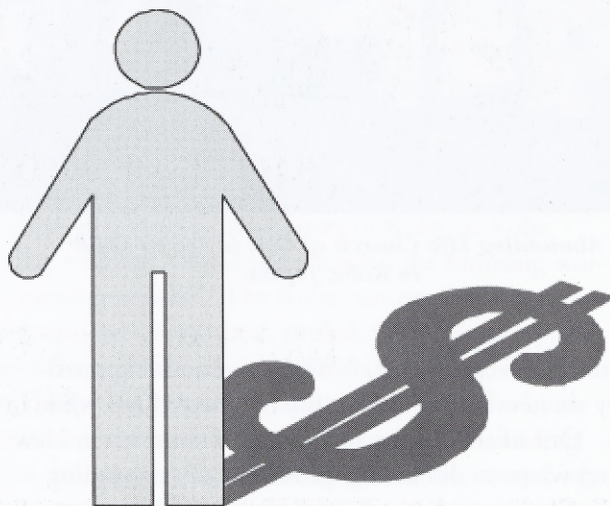
I remember a guy who came to Temple Church and said gangs had shot his mother and brother to death in Los Angeles. He wanted \$200 for a bus ticket and food to go back to Los Angeles to bury his people. He stood and testified before the saints about this terrible event. It was touching. To make a long story short, after the saints asked that an offering be raised it became incumbent upon me, the pastor, to verify the story. I took the man, the money, two strong brothers and an armed guard to my office and checked the story out. I called the Los Angeles police and other local sources to check out the story. It

proved false, and the police asked me the man's name. The Los Angeles police described the man over the phone to me. Here before me sat a known felon, six feet two, thin hair, dark skin, bumpy face, who had two standing warrants for his arrest in Los Angeles. I hung the phone up and asked the armed guard and the brethren to show him the door.

Saints, be careful of angels and crooks for attending them unaware could be costly!



David Hall



51ST
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONVENTION
May 7 - 11, 2001
Birmingham



MOTHER WILLIE MAE RIVERS
GENERAL SUPERVISOR

BISHOP GILBERT E. PATTERSON
PRESIDING BISHOP

EDITORIAL STAFF



Dr. Larry G. Britton, the editor-in-chief of The Whole Truth Magazine, is a former schoolteacher and administrator who has pastored since 1978. He has been married to the magazine's production coordinator, Loretta Miles-Britton, for 25 years. They are the parents of three children. Email: LGB44TRU@aol.com, or fax: (615) 646-4960.



(Elder and Mrs.) Michael and Eucetia Johnson are nationally recognized evangelists and workshop instructors who have ministered throughout the United States in jurisdictional conventions and local churches. She and Michael have been married since 1985 and have three children. They can be contacted at mejewjohnson@aol.com.



Glenda Goodson of Dallas is an evangelist missionary, wife and mother with an MBA degree in strategic leadership. Glenda is the writer for "The COGIC Woman" and an associate editor. She has authored several publications and books. She can be contacted at glenda-goodson@webtv.net.

Kimberly Wesley, (not pictured) former Vanderbilt University student, is a freelance writer with a degree in Psychology. She is the writer of COGIC's Home and Foreign Mission Topics and is a dedicated Sunday School teacher. She is a special feature writer and associate editor for **The Whole Truth Magazine**.

The Mission Statement

It is the mission of The Whole Truth Magazine to provide the general constituency of the Church Of God In Christ with a quality publication which will edify, educate and empower. This will be accomplished through special features which include coverage of religious and news events relevant to the Church Of God In Christ; profiles of COGIC members; and literary contributions by COGIC members.

The Whole Truth Magazine shall endeavor to affect greater unity within this denominational body of Christ by communicating the program and message of the leadership of our National Church and by promoting and utilizing the wealth and resource of journalistic talent from among our own constituency.

Any pictures submitted to The Whole Truth Magazine will become the property of the Church Of God In Christ Publishing House. Remember the pictures that you submit may be used in a national publication; so insure that your pictures are of the highest quality. Pictures that are photocopies, newspaper clippings, or otherwise copied from a source other than the original negative, will not produce quality images and therefore may not be used. Also, pictures will not be returned once submitted. Thank you for complying.

Sincerely,

The Management

The Whole Truth Magazine Subscription Order Form

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